

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Ermine, Lincoln

Thoughts, notices and reminders

14 February 2010

I know that I have to lose my life to find it
—to let go of my pictures and to meet the real person—
to die to my sentimental memories
and trust that a new communion will emerge
which is beyond all my imagining.

But how can I trust in a new life
when I see the blood and sweatstained life of Jesus
and of all those who suffer in prisons,
refugee camps, and torture chambers?

Jesus looks at me and seals my heart
with the imprint of his face.

I will always keep searching, always waiting, always hoping.
His suffering face does not allow me to despair.
My sorrow is a hunger, my loneliness a thirst.
As we meet, we know that the love that causes us pain
is the seed of a life where pain cannot abide.

From "Walk with Jesus" by Henri Nouwen

**Please remember that Fr. Stephen is on extended study leave
until the end of March and will not be available until then.**

**Any items for this weekly sheet should be received
by Daniel Holt no later than Wednesday evening**

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Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

THE PRAYER PAGE

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday NEXT BEFORE LENT	Ruckland Court Residents of: Langdale Close, Langton Close, Laughton Crescent, Laughton Way	The Deanery of Lawres Revd Peter Godden Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central America
Monday	Ermine Neighbourhood Action The Centre The committees and volunteers Residents of: Laughton Way North, Lenton Gardens, Manton Road, Midville Close	The Owmbly Group of Parishes: The Springline Parish: Revd Peter Godden Revd Richard Crossland Revd John Tomlinson
Tuesday SHROVE TUESDAY	Pam, Jackie, Stephen and Sue, our readers; Housebound communicants Residents of: Millbeck Road, Minting Close, Moorby Close, Natal View	Barlings with Langworth, Stainton, and Sudbrooke Revd Robert Spaight
Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY	Health care services on the estate; Social Workers Residents of: Nene Road, Nocton Drive, Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritz View	Retired Clergy in Lawres Deanery
Thursday	JJs; Pathfinders Residents of: Pine Close, Queen Elizabeth Road, Queen Mary Road	Welton with Dunholme and Scothern Ann Hay
Friday	The PCC and Parish officers Sue and Peter, David, Ian Young, PCC members Residents of: Ravendale Drive, Redbourne Drive, Retief Close, Retief View	Nettleham, Riseholme and Grange de Lings Revd Jennifer Rowley Revd Julia Hart Revd Matthew Rushton
Saturday	Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch PC Andy Balding, PC Andy Woodcock, community beat managers, Lance, Amy, Pete and Stephanie, community support officers Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View	The South Lawres Group of Parishes Cherry Willingham w Greetwell, Fiskerton, Reepham Revd Peter Collins Revd Carol Bason Revd Sue Bradley

Give thanks for:	Give thanks for: the newly baptised, their parents and Godparents.
Special prayers this week for:	Special prayers this week for: Christians across the world as they prepare for Lent. Those preparing to be our Lent course speakers here at St John's.
People in need:	Alan Bray, Paul Cartwright, Emma Evans, Ann Gray, Colin Gray, Jan Hunter, June Marshall, Elizabeth Nixon, Joe Siddall
Rest in peace:	

Coming up this week:

Sunday 14 Mass setting: Murray	10:00am 5:15pm 6:00pm	Family Eucharist: Fr John celebrating Rosary prayer group Benediction: Melanie
Tuesday 16	7:00pm	Pancake party and beetle drive
Wednesday 17 Mass setting: Archer	9:30am 10:30am 12:00pm 7:30pm	Eucharist with ashing: Melanie celebrating Ermine House Eucharist Lunch club in the hall Eucharist with ashing: Melanie celebrating
Thursday 18	1:30pm 7:30pm	Bingo and coffee in the church hall St Johns Singers
Friday 19	6:00pm 7:00pm	Pathfinders Eucharist: Fr John
Sunday 21 Mass setting: Archer	10:00am	Eucharist: Fr Mark Hocknull celebrating

Coming up soon:

Monday 22	7:30pm	Lent course: Revd Sally Myers on the passion according to Matthew
Tuesday 23	7:00pm	Stations of the cross
Wednesday 24	9:30am	Eucharist : Fr Jeff Heskins celebrating
Friday 26	6:00pm	Pathfinders
Saturday 27	All day	Diocesan youth training event
Sunday 28 Mass setting: Archer	10:00am	Eucharist: Fr Andrew Vaughan celebrating
Monday 2	7:30pm	Lent course: Canon Ian Silk on the passion according to Mark
Wednesday 3 All contributions for the annual report due in by today	9:30am 10:30am	Eucharist: Melanie celebrating Ruckland Court Eucharist
Thursday 4	12:00pm	Lunch club in the hall
Friday 5	2:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Women's world day of prayer at Our Lady of Lincoln: Sue Brennan preaching Pathfinders Eucharist with Stations of the Cross: Melanie celebrating
Saturday 6		Edward King event at the Cathedral
Sunday 7 Mass setting: Archer	10:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Eucharist: Fr John celebrating Baptisms Songs of Praise: Choir
Monday 9	7:30pm	Lent course: Fr David McCormick on the passion according to Luke
Wednesday 10	9:30am 7:30pm	Eucharist with stations of the cross: Fr John celebrating Choir practice

PANCAKE PARTY AND BEETLE DRIVE



Tuesday February 16th
7:00pm
In the church hall

£2.00 adults £1.00 children

Traidcraft Fortnight



Coffee Morning on
Saturday 27 February in Church
10am to 1pm - including a
Traidcraft stall, cakes and a raffle
for a traidcraft hamper.

ANNUAL REPORT

If you need to write a contribution to the annual report, please do try to get it done as soon as possible. All contributions need to be with Daniel Holt no later than Wednesday 3rd March. It would be most helpful if contributions could be emailed to him (webmaster@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk) but typed or handwritten reports can be left in the post box under "H". Many thanks.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Lent journey begins this week with the worship we offer on Ash Wednesday. Fr John will prepare the ashes using last year's palms. The ashes will be blessed and then used for the traditional imposition of ashes. We will hear the traditional words: 'Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return' as our foreheads are marked. Ash Wednesday offers us all the opportunity to reflect, both as individuals, but also corporately, about how we are going to walk with Christ in the days to come.

Blessing of Ashes (a prayer of blessing by Giles Harcourt)

As the green of palms become the dark of Calvary, so in these ashes which we + bless in your Most Holy Name, let the power of this sign, in penitence and purity, tell the world of the fire of your Spirit, and, in turn, the uplifting power of your Presence to draw us from our darkness into your marvellous light, now and for ever through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ERMINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I recently visited two classrooms at Ermine Primary School to talk to the children about parables. The parable I chose to work with (which is a personal favourite) was The Parable of the Mustard Seed. For me this is a wonderful parable that speaks of the abundant potential for good in creation. As always, it was a joy and a privilege to visit the school and to work with the children and staff. Melanie Jackson.

A-Z QUIZ

Last month's quiz raised £10 for church funds. Well done to everyone who took part, we hope you had fun! The winner will be announced today and the new quiz sheet will be available, cost 50p. As it's Valentine's Day, the theme is 'Hearts and Flowers'.

BINGO AND COFFEE

Bingo and Coffee in the church hall is great fun and there are lots of prizes to choose from. If you've not been before, why not try it. All welcome. Thursday 18th February, 1.30 pm start.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, which begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.

The symbol of the Women's World Day of Prayer was designed in 1982 for the service prepared by women of Ireland, both north and south, and was then adopted as the International Logo.

The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity. Women's World Day of Prayer 2010 takes place on Friday 5th March. The theme for this year is 'Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God' and the focus country this year is Cameroon. Our local Women's World Day of Prayer service takes place on Friday 5th March, 2.30pm at Our Lady of Lincoln. Our Reader Sue Brennan has been asked to preach. Please make a note in your diary and try to attend this service if you are able to do so.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2010

Several people have asked about dates arrangements for Christian Aid Week 2010. For diaries, the dates are 9th - 15th May. Further details to follow.

A message from Fr. Stephen

Lent is a very special time of preparation for the great celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. It is a time to reflect, to pray and to join with others as we meditate on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and as he sets his face towards Jerusalem and the cross. These weeks of preparation challenge us to re-examine our own lives in the shadow of the cross, which, as we approach Holy Week, stretches out ever closer towards us.

Lent is also a time of personal discipline when Christians traditionally give something up or take something extra on. For some, it is a good time to go to confession, and I would encourage you to think seriously about this possibility for yourself. Please speak to Melanie or John if you want to know more or to arrange an appointment.

You might decide to take on some reading or study using some of the many excellent Lent books now available. You might decide to attend morning or evening prayer in church on a regular basis, or to join us in church for the Stations of the Cross. You might decide to do something about your waistline! You might decide to attend our Lent course. Whatever you do, it is vital that it is done with the aim of renewing your experience of faith, your prayer and your relationship with God.

As we come to Holy Week itself, we will be celebrating the Eucharist daily throughout the week. The week will culminate in the great days of the Passion and Easter. Maundy Thursday, when we remember the last supper, the example of Jesus the servant washing the feet of his disciples; Good Friday when we are faced with the stark horror of the crucifixion in the solemn liturgy of the day; in the ancient and glorious rites of the Easter Vigil when we kindle the new light of Christ and celebrate the resurrection in all its glory.

The experience of Holy Week is one that has to be lived through for it to make its full impact on our lives. Simply coming to church on Palm Sunday and Easter Day, going from the triumphal entry to Jerusalem straight to the resurrection, misses out on some of the greatest liturgical experiences the church has to offer and on an opportunity to meet with the crucified, risen Lord, renewed, refreshed and drenched in his love as He shows it to us on the cross. I look forward to sharing in this holy time with you all when I return from my study leave.

Get Connected – Get Talking

Your chance to have a say about things that matter ...

Events for young people linked to churches across Lincolnshire – fun – games – food – friendship and TALKING!

A chance to shape your church, youth group or club.

Fri 19th March 7 till 9pm North Hykeham Youth Centre

Contact Liz Jackson tel. 01476 570207 email: liz.jack@ntlworld.com

The Passions of Christ

Leaflets with details of the forthcoming Lent Talks at St John's are now available. Please take one for your own reference, or to pass on to a friend.

We are delighted to welcome a very distinguished set of speakers for our Lent talks at St Johns. Each speaker has been asked to reflect on one of the four accounts we have in the gospels of the passion of our Lord. I am sure we will find much both of interest and to encourage and inspire us on our own spiritual journeys. The talks start at 7:30pm and will last around 40 minutes. Refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity for questions. The evening will close by 9:00pm with compline. There is no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of St Anne's Hospital in Liuli, Tanzania.

If you would like any more information, please contact Peter Sherlock on 01522 888693

PROGRAMME

22 February 7:30pm
Revd Sally Myers
The Passion according to Matthew

15 March 7:30pm
Canon Jeff Heskins
The passion according to John

1 March 7:30pm
Canon Ian Silk
The passion according to Mark

22 March 7 :30pm
Fr Andrew Tyler
Beyond the cross

8 March 7:30pm
Fr David McCormick
The passion according to Luke

Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 – The Big Swap...

'The Fairtrade Foundation will be asking people to swap their usual stuff for Fairtrade stuff this Fairtrade Fortnight, so come along and find out how you can swap your wardrobe...'



The Lincolnshire Trade Justice Group aim to promote Fairtrade across Lincolnshire and are holding a 'Fairtrade Fashion Show' during Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 on Monday 22nd February, 7pm at Bishop Grosseteste University College. The aim of the event is to promote Fairtrade and to show people the wide range of Fairtrade goods that are now becoming increasingly readily available, giving people the option to swap their usual clothes for Fairtrade alternatives!

Join us for an evening of Fairtrade Fashion, featuring a selection of clothing ranges for all ages. See the styles with the chance to buy a whole new outfit and accessories to match from an array of stall holders from varying organisations and charities that support Fairtrade or sell Fairtrade products.

An occasional environmental resource from Terry Miller, Environmental Chaplain

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

Edmund Burke (1729 - 97)

Earth in Our Hands

The Lincolnshire Churches Lent course 'The Earth in Our Hands' produced in 2007 is still available. This includes a full colour booklet and a CD, at £1 each. The Lent Course was put together by the Lincolnshire Churches Environment Group & BBC Radio Lincolnshire and it won the Jerusalem Award in 2007 for environmental broadcasting. See <http://www.ctal.org.uk/environment.html> The CTAL website has a simplified version to be downloaded for free. For the booklet & CD contact Terry Miller (see below)

Tearfund Carbon Fast

A practical 42 day 6 week programme to cut your carbon this Lent, supported by lots of resources. Masses of brilliant ideas. See www.tearfund.org/carbonfast

10:10

Reduce your carbon footprint by 10% in 2010 See

http://www.1010uk.org/?WT.mc_id=WANT_MORE_INFORMATION&WT.svl=13

Yes it is possible - why wait for 2050 - cut your footprint now, and this website will take you through month by month. Many organisations are signing up for the 10:10 and individuals too. Churches and church leaders have also made commitments. It is something we can do NOW!



The Prospectus for Action 'sustain & renew the life of the earth' is available to download from

<http://www.ctal.org.uk/Framework%20for%20Action.pdf>

This is full of useful actions and resources on biodiversity, transport, energy, water, waste and purchasing - and lots of resources for further support.

UN Year of Biodiversity

2010 is the UN Year of Biodiversity. Find out more from <http://www.arocha.org/gb-en/index.html> A Rocha is a Christian conservation organisation with lots of materials, advice and links to other resources. See also the UN official site:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33393&Cr=environment&Cr1=>



Could you be a Green Apostle for your church & community, are you motivated and keen to take environmental action? If so you may be interested to download the Green Apostle leaflet and read more about this new initiative in the Lincolnshire Churches.

See <http://www.ctal.org.uk/environment.html>