



**Weekly Newsletter for
The Benefice of Evesham, All Saints
with Norton & Lenchwick, St Egwin**



Readings and Notices for
Sunday 16 March 2025
The Second Sunday of Lent

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR TODAY

Time	Service/Event	Church/Venue	Details
8.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints	President & preacher: Revd Caroline Green
10.00am	Holy Communion	St Egwins	President & Preacher: Revd Andy Green
10.00am	Parish Communion	All Saints	President: & Preacher: Rt Revd Martin Gorick

We welcome Bishop Martin, Acting Bishop of Worcester, to our service this morning.

Service book: Lent

Music setting: Archer

Sides: Jayne Fleetwood,
Rebecca Whiting

Readers: Jayne Fleetwood,
Pippa Hodges

Intercessions: Rosie Grove

Coffee: Pam & Jim Osborne

Hymn

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove,
through sleep and darkness safely
brought,
restored to life, and power, and
thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray, —
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of
heaven.

If, on our daily course, our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask, —
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Prepare us, Lord, in your dear love,
for perfect life with you above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Collect—either

Almighty God, you show to those who
are in error the light of your truth, that
they may return to the way of
righteousness: grant to all those who
are admitted into the fellowship of
Christ's religion, that they may reject

those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. .

Amen

Or

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First reading – a reading from the book of Genesis

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he

said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, *Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18*

Second Reading – a reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians
Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and

sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. *Philippians 3.17 – 4.1*

Hymn

‘Take up your cross,’ the Saviour said,
‘if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross, with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.’

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak soul with vain alarm:
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your
arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still:
the Lord refused not even to die
upon a cross, on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
it guides you to a better home,
and leads to victory o’er the grave.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible

for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

Luke 13.31-35

Offertory Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide

till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Hymn

Jesu, grant me this, I pray,
Ever in they heart to stay;
Let me evermore abide
hidden in thy wounded side.

If the world or Satan lay
Tempting snares about my way,
I am safe when I abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

If the flesh, more dangerous still,
Tempt my soul to deeds of ill,
Naught I fear when I abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

Death will come one day to me;
Jesu, cast me not from thee:
Dying let me still abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no
power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls; that we may
be defended from all adversities which
may happen to the body, and from all
evil thoughts which may assault and hurt
the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise. *(repeat)*

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee. *(repeat)*

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love! *(repeat)*

With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as fell thy manna down. *(repeat)*

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and
stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace. *(repeat)*

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and
fire,
O still small voice of calm! *(repeat)*

Weekly Intercessions for week beginning 16th March 2025

Those who are sick, particularly this week we mention:

Carole Vizer, Ann Linehan,
Doreen Tyler, Carol Sheehan,
Jean Whitehouse, Amanda Palmer,
Jim Jarvis

Those who have recently died:

Joyce Ruff, Robert Haines

Year's Mind: Martin Careless, Phyllis Reay, David Booth, Evelyn Smout, Mandy Tucker, Muriel Perkins, David McKechnie-Smith, Eileen Holby

Lent Course

The Lent course continues tomorrow at 7pm, All Saints, focussing on living with the beyond, thinking the unthinkable.

Just Giving for Samuel

Amanda has produced an Income and Expenditure Statement regarding the JustGiving money raised for Samuel Carbalossa Rodriguez. They can be found on the table at the back of the church.

Notices.

Soup Lunches

There will be the second soup lunch in Norton Village Hall on 26 March from 12noon—2pm. All Welcome.

Electoral Roll

This year we have to renew our electoral roll. This involves anyone who is on, or wishes to be on, needing to complete a form. There are copies of the form at the back of church but it would be really helpful if you could complete one online if possible—if we have an email address for you, you will receive a notification containing the form. Alternatively, go to the Church website and use the link or use the QR code below.



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Notes from the PCC meeting.

The new Bell Tower Master has been provided with the church's publicity email address to promote bell tower events and visiting groups.

The scouts are organizing a St. George's Day service and are in contact with the office and Prajna, who will be officiating.

Rosie Grove and Lindsey Ladbrook have been nominated as our representatives for the appointment committee.

It was agreed that the Christmas tree festival will go ahead again this year, starting on December 6th.

A booking for the Medieval Banquet has been approved. It will take place on October 18th.

We have received a grant for pigeon netting to be installed under the Bell Tower, which is due to begin on March 18th.

Clive and John held a constructive meeting with the Diocese finance team.

A discussion took place regarding requesting regular groups that we support by providing access to the church house to either make a donation for using the building or to increase their current donation. A letter will be sent to each group.

A total of 295 food parcels were distributed in February.

The Ordinary Service Book (3B) has been printed and is currently in use.

The service for Mothering Sunday has been edited by Lindsey and Bishop Robert. Preparations for the Palm Sunday service are underway.

We are considering holding a 6 AM Easter sunrise service, followed by breakfast.

The Parish Council would like to thank the members of the worship committee for their hard work in amending the service books.

An inventory of the church's fabric is scheduled to take place soon, and any additional help will be appreciated.

A survey of the churchyard will be conducted soon as part of the next stage of the Enlighten project.

Electoral Roll— Some church members have yet to complete their electoral forms.

Fundraising /social Activities

- April 4th: Quiz in the church

- May 17th: Summer Fair and Medieval Market

- June 14th: Table Top Sale

- July 6th: Godparents Sunday (Godparents will be invited to church) - cake after the service will be provided

- September 28th: Harvest Festival meal in aid of Mission Morogoro

- December 6th: Christmas Fair

In the lead-up to Christmas, we are planning to host Christmas family film evenings and a film afternoon for children.

Services and Events for the week ahead

Monday 17th March

- 10.00 am Contemplative Worship, in All Saints,
led by Revd Dr Prajna Lad
- 6.30 pm Yellow Scarf in Church House Lounge
- 7.00 pm Lent course, All Saints. Living with the beyond. Thinking the
unthinkable.

Wednesday 19th March

- 9.30 am Stay and Play in All Saints
- 1000 am Yellow Scarf in Church House Lounge

Thursday 20th March

- 10.00 am Communion by extension: Led by Julie Westlake
All Saints. Followed by coffee in church
- 5.45 pm Yellow Scarf in Church House Lounge

Friday 21st March

- 2.00 pm Tea Service in All Saints

Sunday 23rd March

- 8.00 am Holy Communion, All Saints.
President: Revd Andy Green, Preacher: Revd Dr Prajna Lad
- 10.00 am Parish Communion, St Egwins:
President & preacher: Revd Caroline Green.
- 10.00 am Holy Communion in All Saints
President: Revd Andy Green, Preacher: Revd Dr Prajna Lad
Sides: Sara Greedy, Colette Arbuthnot
Readers: Sara Greedy, Colette Arbuthnot
Intercessions: Lindsay Ladbrook
Coffee: Jayne Fleetwood, Janwyne Rouke

Bishop Martin's Lent Message 2025

As we enter Spring and Summer, the bird song you hear changes ready for the breeding season. And as we approach Lent and Easter, it's a chance for us to reset our tune, to change our tune and focus again on God.

We do this traditionally in three ways. Firstly, through prayer – you might like to use the daily prayer app from the Church of England on your smartphone or computer. Or Lectio365 which has short, simple, reflective prayers for morning, noon and night.

Secondly, fasting. By tradition we give up something in Lent, perhaps a meal once a week or perhaps a particular kind of food, just to cleanse our bodies and also to revive our prayer life as we think about those who are going hungry at this time. Or you may want to have a digital fast and give up something that you spend far too much time on – scrolling on your phone, or whatever it might be.

And thirdly, we think of acts of kindness, or acts of giving. You may want to do all kinds of things, including perhaps considering supporting this year's Lent Appeal for Morogoro in Tanzania, our link diocese. Money raised will go towards a scholarship fund for students at Morogoro Bible College, supporting catechists, evangelists, clergy going out in Tanzania to plant and develop churches. They get such a good training there and the appeal is a chance to encourage them.

So please do give generously as we pray, fast, perform acts of kindness this Lent.
Bishop Martin

The Benefice of All Saints, Evesham
with St Egwin, Norton & Lenchwick

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