

Lent always feels like a time of contrasts. We look around and we see signs of new life, on bulbs and trees, and in farmyards and fields - and yet we look at what church is teaching and it is focussed on the walk towards death that Jesus is taking. It can feel hard, having a season of denial in the midst of hopefulness. And it's interesting to note that society and the church seem to be at odds these days. In December, whilst we are talking about advent, the adverts and shops are all talking about Christmas, and then people have been following "dry January" giving up alcohol, and then "sugar-free February", whilst we were still in the Christmas season celebrations, with the season only officially ending on 2nd February.

The gospel is often like this, seemingly at odds with all that the world wants to say. In the midst of Jesus' willing, deliberate walk towards his death, he was telling people all about life, and we know that the only way that we can have life in all its fullness is through the death of Jesus - the seeming contradictions are part and parcel of Christianity - we live with mysteries, even in the joy of all that we do know. We live with joy, even in the difficulties and the suffering that we see and experience.

This Lent, I hope you will join me in taking time to study the diocesan Lent course, "All Loves excelling" - looking in further depth at the letter to the Philippians. This letter is written by a man who is imprisoned for his faith, and in the midst of that imprisonment, he speaks words of joy and encouragement to the people of Philippi, more seeming contradiction

We will make the bible study notes available to everyone who would like to take them, for studying at home. If you would like to get together in small groups to discuss them, you are very welcome to, but we will not be organising formal groups this term. On Sundays in Lent, at coffee time, we will have some resources on the tables and someone available to answer questions that you might have. As we study this, I will be praying for each of you, that you will see joy in the midst of all your circumstances, and walk with Jesus day by day.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for you...I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:3,4,6

Judith

**MAKE
LENT
COUNT**

PRAY • ACT • GIVE

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher until further notice please phone	07764 613862
Assistant Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower	523066
Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Assistant Curate	Rev. Harry Rose	01954 211553
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	328658
Licensed Lay Minister	Terry Barringer	424584
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	354300
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Churchwarden	Fiona Blows	329822
Churchwarden	Philip Morris	352698
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	see above
PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Blows	329822
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir	572303
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Administrator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team	David Wilson	720097
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team	Hazel Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Discipleship and Teaching Team	David Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team	Linda Dean	328658
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Altar Linen	Margaret Handley	357970
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini	300497
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter	07952919701
Food Bank	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James	357607
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Council of Churches	David Maher	351844
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison	354300
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan	Stuart Keir	572303
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Fiona Blows	329822
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	572303

READINGS FOR MARCH

Sundays and holy days

- 1 ASH WEDNESDAY at 7pm
Isaiah 58: 1-12
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 5 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11
- 12 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 12: 1-4a
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 2: 1-17
- 19 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 17: 1-7
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-44
- 26 MOTHERING SUNDAY
Exodus 2: 1-10
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
Luke 2: 33-35

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 1 ASH WEDNESDAY
Isaiah 58: 1-12
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 8 Jonah 3
Luke 11: 29-32
- 15 Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9
Matthew 5: 17-19
- 22 James 1: 19 - end
Mark 9: 38-40
- 29 Isaiah 49: 8-15
John 5: 31 - end

FIRST CALL

Sunday March 5 at 7pm in the Chapel

REGULAR SERVICES IN MARCH

- Sundays 8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
Morning Prayer, when said in church, will be at 9.15.
Second Monday of each month will be set aside for Staff Prayer.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MARCH

Sunday March 26 All Age Parade Service at 10am for Mothering Sunday

EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday March 5 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall



LOVE: A PARAPHRASE OF 1 CORINTHIANS 13

If I talk a lot about God and the Bible and the Church, but I fail to ask about your needs and then help you, I'm simply making a lot of empty religious noise.

If I graduate from theological seminary and know all the answers to questions you'll never even think of asking, and if I have all the degrees to prove it and if I say I believe in God with all my heart, and soul and strength, and claim to have incredible answers to my prayers to show it, but I fail to take the time to find out where you're at and what makes you laugh and why you cry, I'm nothing.

If I sell an extra car and some of my books to raise money for some poor starving kids somewhere, and if I give my life for God's service and burn out after pouring everything I have into the work, but do it all without ever once thinking about the people, the real hurting people-the moms and dads and sons and daughters and orphans and widows and the lonely and hurting-if I pour my life into the Kingdom but forget to make it relevant to those here on earth, my energy is wasted, and so is my life.

Here is what love is like--genuine love. God's kind of love. It's patient. It can wait. It helps others, even if they never find out who did it. Love doesn't look for greener pastures or dream of how things could be better if I just got rid of all my current commitments. Love doesn't boast. It doesn't try to build itself up to be something it isn't. Love doesn't act in a loose, immoral way. It doesn't seek to take, but it willingly gives. Love doesn't lose its cool. It doesn't turn on and off. Love doesn't think about how bad the other person is, and certainly doesn't think of how it could get back at someone. Love is grieved deeply (as God is) over the evil in this world, but it rejoices over truth.

Love comes and sits with you when you're feeling down and finds out what is wrong. It empathizes with you and believes in you. Love knows you'll come through just as God planned, and love sticks right beside you all the way. Love doesn't give up, or quit, or diminish or go home. Love keeps on keeping on, even when everything goes wrong and the feelings leave and the other person doesn't seem as special anymore. Love succeeds 100 percent of the time. That, my friend, is what real love is!

[I remember going to a wedding Dave was conducting and hearing him speak about this chapter. He suggested you put your own name in the passage wherever LOVE occurs]

REBIRTH

When winter frosts were more prolonged
Than norm, and death became the fate
Of many creatures large and small,
The laughing children learned to skate.
A pair of waxwings fled from north
To feast on rowan fruits along
The road and gave delight until,
With melting snows, they left as song
Of thrush at dusk proclaimed that spring
Was on its way. Our robins just
Survived the freeze but wrens have not
Been seen for weeks. A sudden gust
Induces hazel catkin dance
Above the snowdrops giving joy
Despite the chill and feeble sun.
I now recall the times when boy
I used to welcome spring's delights
And felt a sense of life reborn.
No wonder church embraced this time
For Jesus treating grave with scorn
As Easter's triumph lit a flame
That lights the way for pilgrim band
Who try to live his Gospel Way.
Be warned, it's far from being bland.
To share in love of Father God
Entails ourselves are lost to view.
As grace consumes our self concern
We learn His peace and joy are true.

Henry Disney



There is a line of women, extending back to Eve

Whose role in shaping history God only could conceive
And though, through endless ages, their witness was repressed
God valued and encouraged then through whom the world was blessed
So sing a song of Sarah to laughter she gave birth
And sing a song of Tamar who stood for women's worth
And sing a song of Hannah who bargained with her Lord
And sing a song of Mary who bore and bred God's Word

There is a line of women who took on powerful men
Defying laws and scruples to let life live again
And though, despite their triumph, their stories stayed untold
God kept their number growing, creative strong and bold

So sing a song of Shiphrah with Puah in her hand
Engaged to kill male children they foiled the king's command
And sing a song of Rahab who sheltered spies and lied
And sing a song of Esther, preventing genocide

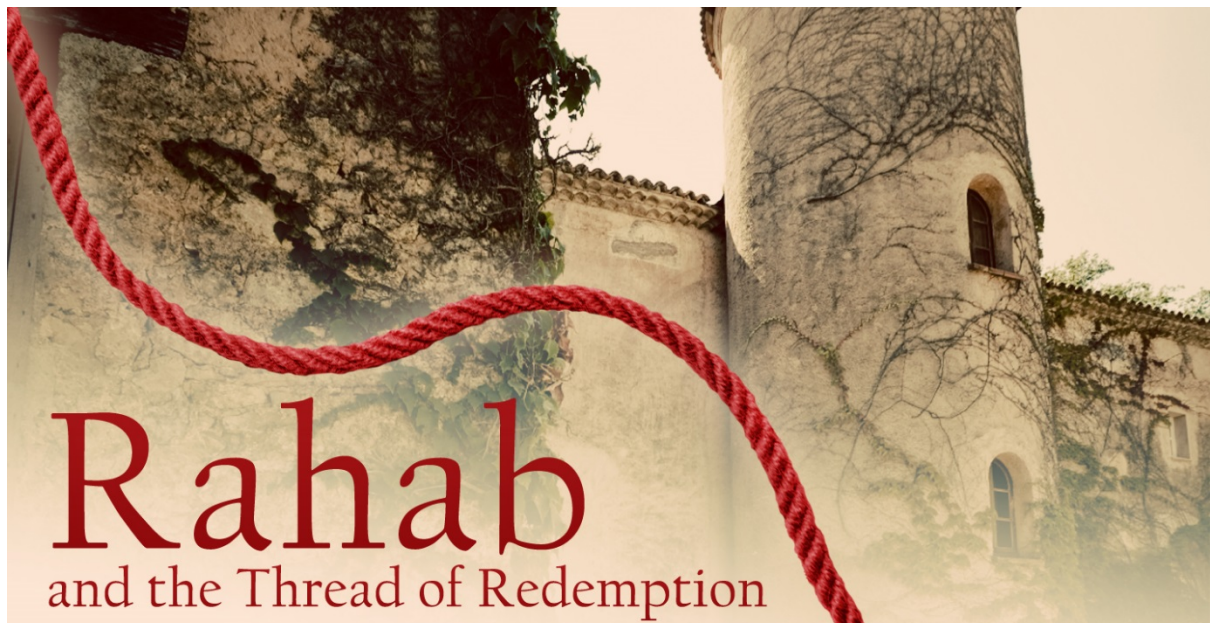
There is a line of women who stood by Jesus' side
Who housed him while he ministered and held him when he died
And though they claimed he'd risen their news was deemed suspect
Till Jesus stood among them, his womanly elect

So sing a song of Anna who saw Christ's infant face
And sing a song of Martha who gave him food and space
And sing of all the Marys who heeded his requests
And now at heaven's banquet are Jesus' fondest guests.

John L Bell

Tune: Stand up, stand up for Jesus

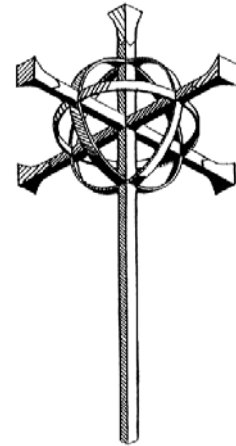
As you will see, you could sing this as a hymn. BUT I thought I knew the Old Testament quite well but there are names here I didn't know. How many can you identify?



IN THE CHURCH HALL (to book call 352151 (evenings))

THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	Jinty Keir	572303
RED HEN Monday 8.15 – 11am	Christine O'Reilly	0781 6444439
SANG Monday 10– 11.30 (meets in Haven in Church)	Rachel Blanchflower	523066
THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Ruby Leyshon	352151
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Monday 8.15 - 9.15pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
LINE DANCING Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Deborah Walker	01954 231382
KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
YOGA STRETCHING AND MOBILITY Wednesday 9.25-10.15am	Lexi	367639
TAI CHI Wednesday 12.50-1.40	Lexi	367639
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
UNITE RETIRED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION 4 th Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm	Evelyn Hunnyball	364293
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
PILATES Friday 12.50 – 1.40pm	Lexi	367639
TAI CHI Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
SIN CRU Friday 5-7.30pm (Term time only)	Lucy Crowe	07989 927706
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Friday 3.13-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
April Newsletter:
March 12
(Publication date March 26)**



Vicarage 01223 351844

Church Hall bookings
(evenings) 01223 352151

Newsletter Ruth Banger 07764 613862
OR ruthbanger51@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Here at the Good Shepherd we like to help you to celebrate and commemorate many of the milestones on the journey through life; these include weddings, anniversaries, funerals, and baptism services.

If you wish to find out more about these, the first step is to contact the Vicar, the Reverend David Maher. He will be able to tell you what is involved and arrange for a meeting with you if you then wish to take things further.

He can be contacted on 01223 351844

Church website: www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk

