

St David with St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for the Third Sunday of Lent, 20 March 2022

Dear Friends,

Today's collect is one of the most beautiful of Lent. It recognises that Jesus had to suffer pain and crucifixion before he could enter into the joy and glory of heaven. If you have been to Colmar in Alsace you might have seen the Isenheim altarpiece which was painted by Matthias Grünewald for a monastic hospital. It is exceptionally gruesome because, it is thought, the appearance of Christ's body in the altarpiece reflects the horrible effects of the disease from which the hospital patients were suffering. It reminds us of the key Christian belief that 'we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.' (Hebrews 4: 15) Let us pray that this truth about Jesus will strengthen Christian people around the world who face great hardship, sickness and cruelty today.

Please note that the Tuesday afternoon Lent Group will meet in St David's Church this week at 2pm. We hope to be back at the Vicarage next week.

Face coverings in church are now voluntary in church, as elsewhere. But please stay aware of social distancing and use hand sanitizer on entering the building. We are pleased to be serving refreshments after our services and are grateful to those who are making this possible. Please be patient, kind and respect the personal space of other people if they don't wish to get too close!

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant, Ash Leighton Plom and preacher, Belinda Speed-Andrews (live-streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher Robin Eastoe

4pm Thrive at St Michael's Church with Ash Leighton Plom

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Belinda Speed-Andrews

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 22 March, 9.30 – 9.55am Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392 Passcode: 196651

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Wednesday 23 March, 9.30am Mattins and 10am Mass at St Michael's

Thursday 24 March, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church with address by Bill Pattinson

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Friday 25 March, The Annunciation, 9.30 Morning Prayer in St David's Lady Chapel and live streamed on St David's Facebook Page

Sunday 27 March – The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant, Ash Leighton Plom and preacher, David James (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie

4pm Thrive at St David's

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Robert Mitchell

Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

At St David's we encourage people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Please mingle with care before and after services and be mindful not only of your own wellbeing but also of your neighbours' safety.

Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or have tested positive for Covid.

Forthcoming elections for PCC and Deanery Synod

At the annual parishioners' meeting on Thursday 28th April this year we are hoping that you will give consideration to seeking election to the PCC and/or Deanery Synod.

At St Michael's there will be two spaces on the PCC and at St David's there will be three.

There are three available spaces on Deanery Synod (successful election to Deanery Synod automatically confers a seat at the PCC).

Papers to complete for nomination will be available in church from early April or you can download a copy here: [PCC nomination form](#)

[Deanery Synod nomination form](#)

We will also be seeking to elect a new churchwarden, and a second chapel warden for St Michael's. Again, there will be forms available in church in early April or you can download a copy here: [Church Warden nomination form](#)

Please pick up a copy of our parish prayer to use during Lent.

Knit and Natter

We will meet next **Saturday 26th March** at St David's Church from 10.30am until 12noon. All are welcome to knit, natter or learn! Tea and coffee available.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be next **Saturday 26th March at 10am** at the Farmers' Union. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

Men's Walk for Hospiscare

Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored our team effort. We have raised well over £1,800 which is fantastic. And the rain kept off!

Thrive

Thrive this week will be at St Michael's Church at 4pm.

Parish Quiz

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz on Friday evening and worked hard to make it happen. Great fun was had and several hundred pounds

were raised. We plan to give a donation to the DEC appeal for Ukraine from the proceeds.

An hour of music – Thursday 17th March

Christabel would like to thank everyone who came to support her performance and make it a memorable and successful evening.

Tuesday Friendship Café

Please let your local friends know that we are open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company. There are flyers available for you to take as invitations.

Thank you to those who have already offered to help or to bake cakes. There is a rota at the back of church to sign up when you can help. And do just come along if you would like to and help us to welcome any visitors who come into church!

Lent Groups

St David's church are offering 2 different courses

On Tuesday afternoons 2pm at 95 Howell Rd on 8, 22, 29 March and 5 April

York Course '**Caring for Creation**' **Please note that the group will meet in St David's Church this Tuesday.** Please email nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com to book a place.

On Tuesday evenings 7pm Venue TBC on 8, 15, 22, 29 March and 5 April

Sanctuary Mental Health Course: <https://www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org>

This will be led by Revd Belinda Speed-Andrews. If you would like to join or know more details, please contact her on bspeedandrews@gmail.com

On offer at St Michael's Church:

Lent Reading Group at St Michael's

On Wednesdays 30 March and 6 April at 7 pm the **Lent Reading Group** will discuss Bede's *Historia* with Oliver Nicholson

St Michael's Survey

A survey has been prepared following on from the Archdeacon's proposals for St Michael's Church. We invite all those who are regular worshippers or on the Electoral Roll for St Michael's or who use the church regularly for other activities to complete and return the survey **not later than 27th March 2022**. It is available on paper at St Michael's Church, and online from nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

Parish Lunch

The next parish lunch will be on Thursday March 31st at 12 noon at Exeter College's @34 Restaurant. Menus and signing up sheets will be at the back of both churches from this Sunday and people will need to sign up by Sunday March 27th.

Church Electoral Roll

The revision of the Church Electoral Roll is currently underway. If you are a regular worshipper but not already on the Roll please pick up a form from church. You need to be on the Roll to vote at the APCM or stand for election. Any queries please contact Sue Wilson at St David's or Paula Lewis at St Michael's.

Fairtrade Easter Eggs

Richard Featherstone is taking orders (cash on delivery) for "real" Easter eggs, to be delivered at the Traidcraft stall at St David's on March 27th?

New Leaves

The March edition of our Parish Magazine with lots of great news and views is now available. Thank you to all our contributors and our editorial team.

Green Team

Thank you again to all those who donated the fruit trees. Those recently planted are 2 Cox apple, 2 Katy apple, 1 Scrumptious apple, 1 crab apple. We look forward to enjoying and sharing some fruit in due course!

Thank you also to the Community Payback Team from Probation who are continuing to weed around the church and clear rubbish from the churchyard most Saturdays. Do say hello to them if you are passing!

South West Prays – for peace in Ukraine

Christians in the South West will be uniting to pray for the situation in Ukraine next Sunday, 20 March at 6pm. You can log in here:

<http://www.southwestprays.com/>

Phone Network and Home Communion

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or know someone who would appreciate Communion at home, please let Nigel know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing him on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

St Michael's services and prayers

If you would like to access the service details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com and he can add you to that weekly mailing.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who are suffering including:

Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Maggs Bedford; Monica Darch; Andrew Francis; James Ibbetson, Liz Rimmington; Anne Smith; Grace Tointon; Mary Tout; Pam Smith; Iris Sutton; Bessie Wilkins; Andy, Avis, Becky, Debs and Rob

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Dave Stanley, Diane Susan Evans

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Our choirs, St David's orchestra, and all church musicians

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Please also pray for:

the people of Ukraine and all those injured, bereaved and made homeless by the invasion;

refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, and the response to their needs;
for peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to be productive;

members of our community to consider standing as church and chapel wardens or assistants and PCC members;
the consultation during March about future ministry at St Michael's;
the Anna Chaplains who were commissioned last Sunday at St David's Church;
purposeful follow-up from the COP26 conference;
those being impacted by rising costs of living in this country;
the dismissed employees of P&O ferries;
those suffering in Afghanistan through lack of food and medical facilities;
the people of Yemen and Ethiopia facing continued conflict and famine;
those in the NHS and education struggling to keep services going in the face of many Covid infections;
those suffering from Covid and long-Covid around the world.

With every blessing,
Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for the Third Sunday of Lent, 20 March 2022

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Isaiah 55: 1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than
your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Gospel Reading – Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

Address by Belinda Speed-Andrews, for Sunday, March 20th 2022

No text provided this week due to the nature of Belinda’s address.

Post-Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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