

The Parish of St David, Exeter

Parish Newsletter for Sunday, 2 March 2025

Our services this week at St David's:

Sunday, 2 March 2025 – Sunday next before Lent/St David's Day, our patronal festival

9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant and preacher, Mike Clark

6 pm Evening Prayer led by Charlotte Townsend

Tuesday, 4 March (Shrove Tuesday), 9.00-9.30 am Zoom Morning Prayer.
Please join us using this link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77269635517?pwd=Lb40Ha9TejMxaaXMc7XrFokjutLaZ1.1>

Meeting ID: 772 6963 5517

Passcode: 0q5ZR4

Wednesday, 5 March (Ash Wednesday)

10.30 Holy Communion + ashes led by Mike Clark

7.00 pm Holy Communion + ashes led by Sarah Cumming

Thursday, 6 March, 10.30am Holy Communion led by Sarah Cumming with preacher Charlotte Townsend

Sunday, 9 March 2025 – 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant, Sarah Cumming and preacher, Mike Clark

6 pm Evening Prayer led by Ian Cartwright

For services this week at St Michael's and All Angels CD, please see:
<https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/worship/>

Message from the Vicar and Churchwardens

1. Lent and Lent Course

Next Wednesday, 5 March, is Ash Wednesday when we mark the beginning of Lent. As last year, we will be offering a 10.30 am and 7.00 pm Holy Communion + ashes. Do try to come to one or other.

Our Lent course will be based on the book 'The Final Days' by Mark Rawle, which explores the four Gospels' differing accounts of Jesus' Passion, offering a fuller picture of his suffering, death and resurrection.

Howard and Helen Friend have kindly offered to host a group at their home. This will be from 2 to 3.30pm on Thursdays starting on 13 March and running for six weeks. Please contact Mike Clark if you would like to join the group. mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Also, you may like to take a look at these resources for Lent

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025>

or download the Everyday Faith app to your phone. This has a brief reading, reflection and prayers for every day, and will be following the theme of 'Living Hope' during Lent.

2. Cake today and a brunch on Sunday, 16 March

As it is our Patronal Festival today, we will be celebrating with cake after the service. Do please stay for that. Many thanks to Maggie and the members of the Social Committee for organising this.

We also look forward to a simple brunch after our service on 16 March - any offers of contributions on sign-up sheet at the back of church which will be available for the next few weeks.

3. Parish Quiz Night, Saturday, 22 March 2025

Tickets for our Quiz Night on 22 March are on sale today or can be reserved after church. Do make up a team of 6 -8 or join a team on the night. Doors and a cash bar open at 6.30pm and the quiz will start at 7pm. A Ploughman's Supper is included in your £10 ticket. Start thinking of your team name now!

4. Parish outing to Sherborne, Dorset – Wednesday, 26 March 2025

Robin Thomas is kindly organising a parish outing to Sherborne for us.

Approximate cost to cover return rail fare/coffee/ guided tour of Sherborne Abbey/lunch: £50.00 per person. For full details and a proposed timetable for the day, please see the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

5. **Parish email** - If you normally receive the email but it hasn't appeared either this week or last, please check your junk mail box – for some reason, Google has taken a dislike to it. In gmail at least, it is possible to tell Google it isn't junk!

6. **Covid & flu: sensible precautions**

With Covid and flu very much about, a gentle reminder that if you are coughing/sneezing and/or feeling unwell, out of consideration for others, please refrain from attending church, and where possible, join us via the live-stream.

Visiting and home Communion

If you would like to be visited or phoned by someone from the church community, please let Howard Friend know by ringing him on 07733 739453; for Communion at home, either for yourself or someone you know, please contact Ian Cartwright on 07813 795616.

Parish Magazine – is out today – do pick up a copy. Many thanks to the editorial team. Please note there is a new email address: newleaves@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

Compilation of a New Electoral Roll

This is another gentle reminder of the need for everyone who wishes to to complete an Electoral Roll form. Many thanks to those who have already done

so. Forms are on the table at the back of the church. Please hand completed forms to Sue Wilson or Alice Francis, or speak to them if you would like to know more.

Tuesday Friendship Café

St David's Church is normally open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company. All welcome.

Wednesday Walks

Wednesday walkers meet and enjoy convivial conversation, gentle strolls, the changing of the seasons and a coffee together. Would you like to join us? We'd make you very welcome! We meet at 9am at the door at the west end of St David's and we leave promptly. If you'd like to join us please just turn up, or speak to Helena in church.

Knit and Natter

Please see Glynis for details of future meetings.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be advised advertised shortly. Please contact Alan Baker if you would like a reminder alan.baker1963@outlook.com

Parish lunch – Thursday, 27 March, 12 noon

The next parish lunch will be on Thursday, 27 March at Exeter College's @34 restaurant at 12 noon. Thanks, Sue Wilson and Jenny Baker

Your Prayers are asked for...

those who are suffering including:

Caroline Speed-Andrews; Ann Barnet, Delia Bloom; Libby Clapham; Andrew Francis; Hazel Gowland; Eileen Jarman, Roger Luscombe; Avril Pattinson; Anne Smith; Helena Walker, Sarah Wood; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will, Dave

those who have died recently

Maggs Bedford. Her funeral is to be on Tuesday, 4 March at 1.30pm at Cheriton Fitzpaine Church. All welcome.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:

St David's Patronal Festival, Women's World Day of Prayer (7 March); St David's Women's group

Please also pray for:

Our church

Our country and its leaders, both political and religious;

Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war, for Ukraine and the peace process in Gaza

Sunday, 2 March 2025 – Sunday next before Lent/St David's Day

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your servant David
to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales:
in your mercy, grant that,
following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ,
we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life;
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.

[1st reading - Exodus 34.29-35](#)

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

[Gospel Reading - Luke 9.28-36\[37-43a\]](#)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[Sermon by Mike Clark for 2 March 2025](#)

Today is the closest Sunday to St David's day, the patron of this church. St David was a monk and Bishop in Wales who founded many churches and monastic settlement in Wales, Brittany and South West England. He died on the 1st March 589 or 601 AD and was buried at the site of St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire. I am not going to say too much about St David this morning- I would not be able to compete with David James' excellent sermon on 1st March 2020! You can still find it on the church website:

<https://stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/St-Davids-Day-2020.pdf>

But, I am going to remember his final words.

"Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do".

St David was known as a great preacher and people loved listening to him. One of the miracles attributed to him during his lifetime happened when he was preaching: the flat ground on which he was standing rose up to form a small hill, so that he could be heard all the better. It was as if God was emphasizing

the need for people to listen to St David's words, which takes us nicely to our gospel reading.

This morning we are encouraged to listen- listen to one who has the ability to change us and even change the world.

Three of the disciples, Peter, James and John, went with Jesus up a mountain to pray. This itself wasn't unusual - Jesus frequently took time out from his hectic life to pray to God. The mountain, probably Hermon, is a high one and it would have taken a day to get up there. When they get to their destination the disciples are very tired and sleepy. But on this occasion their sleepiness is disturbed by the sight of Jesus transformed – his face is changed and his clothes glow a dazzling white!

This happened only days after Jesus posed the disciples the question, 'who do you say I am?' Peter, as usual, spoke up first and said you are the Christ- the son of the living God. Then immediately after that Jesus told them that he was going to Jerusalem and would be killed. Peter didn't think that was what should be happening at all. Clearly Jesus's disciples still didn't understand fully who Jesus was and what he had come to do.

And so, on this most unusual prayer time they see a different side to Jesus than they had seen before.

On the mountain Jesus meets with Moses and Elijah - Moses: the great leader of the Israelites, the one who gave the Ten Commandments and the rest of the law to the people. Elijah, one of the greatest of the prophets - the one who was to appear to signal the coming of the messiah. There is more going on here than we can seek to understand this morning,

So I just want to focus on one point

A cloud appears - often a sign in the Bible of the presence of God, and from it a voice speaks-

“This is my Son, my chosen—listen to him!”

God the father knew that Peter and the other disciples did not like what Jesus had been telling them about his approaching death

‘Listen to him’ he says.

God knew that they had a problem with learning what Jesus had been teaching them about the need to serve one another rather than seeking status and superiority.

‘Listen to him’ he says.

God knew that they would prefer to take the easy way rather than the way of the cross

‘Listen to him’, God says

God knew that despite his tendency to be the first to speak and full of confidence, Peter found it hard to accept that Jesus could forgive and use such a failure as him.

‘Listen to him’ God says.

‘Don’t misunderstand what he tells you. Don’t reject his teaching and his mission. Don’t evade the real issues and seek to stay up on the mountain when the real work is to be done when you have come back down.’

So, do we listen when he says to us, 'you really are forgiven for those things in your past, you really are a child of God, you really are of great worth to me, you really are a vital member of the body, you really are of more worth to me than you can ever comprehend...'??

Do we listen when he reminds us of the world-changing message that Luke summarises earlier in his gospel?

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Do we listen when he encourages us to have an awareness of God's presence and action every day, encouraging us to appreciate even the smallest of gifts we receive and are able to see value in the smallest of loving actions, as St David encouraged?

We have in this reading the awesomeness, the otherness, the holiness of God. It is something that filled the disciples with amazement and fear. Not many people in Bible history have been privileged enough to meet with the divine in such a close way. As you read through the Old Testament, the general expectation was that to see God meant certain death. Only Moses met God face to face more than once, and as we read in that passage from Exodus, the experience transformed him.

Transformation, I believe, was the purpose of what the disciples saw on that mountain - not just the transformation of Jesus before their eyes - but their

own transformation. They didn't yet fully understand what it was all about, but they would later, and they would never be the same.

Most people now never have mountain-top experiences like Peter James and John did. But we can all meet with Jesus in a way that transforms us - when we take time to be with him, and when we do as the Father tells us, and 'listen to him!'

This Wednesday sees the start of Lent - that period of preparation for Holy week and Easter, when we remember the time at the start of his ministry that Jesus spent in the wilderness. After the mountain-top experience of the transfiguration it is time to come down the mountain and enter the valley.

Lent is traditionally a time of repentance, reflection, renewal, seeking God's presence and guidance for our lives.

Perhaps most important of all—it is a time of listening, and for our listening to make a difference in our lives and our world.

There are so many ways to help us to do this listening - you will find some suggestions in the notices above.

If we, this Lent, can make it a priority to listen for God's voice, to let it sink into our hearts, to let him challenge and inspire us again, then this season might be a life-transforming experience for all of us.

Post Communion

Holy God,

we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please tell us
at notices@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

Please send notices/content/prayer requests or amendments to Hilary
on todd.stdandm@gmail.com)

(All readings can be found via Oremus Bible Browser: <https://bible.oremus.org/> in
the New Revised Standard Version (anglicized edition))