

St David with St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Parish Newsletter for 3 March 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Lent 3 Introduction

The account of Jesus disrupting trading in the temple is placed towards the beginning of John's gospel, between the wedding at Cana and the visit by Nicodemus.

John seems determined to expose the misunderstanding of the Jewish authorities while nudging us towards a deeper understanding of Jesus' ministry and identity: Jesus the incarnate Son of God, whose body would be destroyed and would rise after three days.

Sarah

Our services this week:

Sunday 3 March 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant and preacher, Sarah Cumming

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's Church with celebrant and preacher, Ash Leighton Plom

4pm Thrive Ash Leighton Plom

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

6 pm Evensong and Benediction at St Michael's led by David Gunn-Johnson

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 5 March 9:30-10 am Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us using this link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79947675846?pwd=xwh2vwYTTGMF1t9RifaEBHQaOoMUWO.1>

Meeting ID: 799 4767 5846

Passcode: 4JyeYv

We use this app for our prayers – details here or via a

phone: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live-streamed via Facebook [facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter))

Wednesday 6 March 6 pm Stations of the Cross at St Michael's

Thursday 7 March (Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203) 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live-streamed via Facebook)

Sunday 10 March 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant and preacher, Sheila Swarbrick

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's Church with celebrant and preacher, Hannah Alderson

4pm Thrive Ash Leighton Plom

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Ian Cartwright

Message from the Churchwardens:

Tickets for the 8 March Parish Quiz: are available this morning at St David's from Glynis (see below for more details). *Your last chance!*

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 Quiz night, Friday, 8 March 2024, 7.30 pm, St David's

Parish Quiz Night, all welcome, teams of 6-8 only, £10 pp to include a ploughman's supper. Tickets available from Glynis 07775 752815 or Maggie 07957 990120. Always a fun evening!

Men's Breakfast, Saturday, 9 March

The next Men's breakfast will be Saturday 9 March at 9 am, Boston Tea Party. Please contact Alan Baker if you would like a reminder alan.baker1963@outlook.com

Parish Lunch – Thursday, 21 March 2024, 12 noon

Our next parish lunch will be on Thursday, 21 March. Details to follow.

Knit and Natter, Saturday, 23 March 2024

Knit and Natter will be changing its day of operation after Easter, as we will share time with the Tuesday cafe once a month. Until then it remains on a Saturday, the last being Saturday 23rd March. Subsequent dates are 16 April and 14 May.

Advance notice of the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

The APCM will take place on Thursday, 25 April at 7.30pm at St David's. Reports and accounts will be available before the meeting and will be displayed in both churches. Two places on the PCC from St David's congregation will become available as terms of office end – perhaps you might

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

Thrive – Sundays @4 at St David's Church

As well as music and food, we are doing the Romans Course. Get intrigued, here: www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course

Wednesday Walks

Wednesday walkers have met all but two or three times during the past year and have enjoyed 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! Why not make Wednesday mornings with friends your new year's resolution? 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.

Your Prayers are asked for...

those who are suffering including:

Margaret Roberts, Emma White, Caroline Speed-Andrews; Maggs Bedford, Nan Biles, Delia Bloom, Lois Draper, Andrew Francis, Phoebe Goldsworth, Hazel Gowland, Eileen Jarman, Roger Luscombe, Anne Smith; Pam Smith, Grace Tointon, Tony Whitear, Sarah Wood; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will.

those who have died recently including:

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:

St David's Patronal Festival, Women's World Day of Prayer, St David's Women's group

Please also pray for:

Our parish as we seek a positive vision for the future
Our country and all those affected by the recent storms
Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war

Sunday, 3 March 2024, 3rd Sunday of Lent

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.

1st reading - Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

2nd reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading - John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reflection by Sarah Cumming for 3 March 2024

A few prompts as we consider today's gospel reading together.

Read the verses slowly, focusing on Jesus' actions. Fill in the details of the sounds and smells as well as the responses of the traders and onlookers. What do you notice? I found myself wondering how long it would take to make a whip of cords.

Holding this passage and the 10 Commandments side by side, does Jesus break any of the Commandments?

What is the response of the authorities?

How would you respond to a similar disturbance if it took place in church?

Jesus and the authorities both refer to 'the temple'. What does each of them mean by this?

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

Robert Mitchell and Hilary Todd

Church Wardens

(Wardens@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

(Please send notices/content 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))