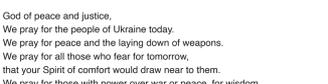


View this email in your browser



Church Link No. 102

Second Sunday of Lent 13 March 2022



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

Church of England, Prayer for Ukraine

Church Notices

This Sunday's Eucharist will be at St Bartholomew's, Ubley at 10:15am and will be led by the Revd. Jan Knott. Messy Church with family crafting based around Joseph (and his coat of many colours) will be at 4pm. All welcome.

Please note that there will be no Zoom Lent Forum on Wednesday. Please could Wednesday group members attend on Saturday 12th instead.

The Cassiopeia Ensemble, from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, will be performing a concert of chamber music by Mozart and Schumann in St Andrew's Church, Blagdon on Saturday 30th April at 7:00pm. Tickets are available to purchase through Eventbrite by clicking [this link](#).

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,
 Revd. Simon Lewis
 Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please [unsubscribe](#) here.

Second Sunday of Lent Worship this Week

Sunday 13th March

- 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
- 4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Monday 14th March

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
- 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Tuesday 15th March

- 10:00am - Mini Melodies, a toddler group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Wednesday 16th March

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
- 5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Thursday 17th March

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
- 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom

The 10:15am Eucharist on Sunday 20th March will be at St Andrew's Church, Blagdon.

Our three parish churches will be open for individual prayer every day from 9am - 5pm.
 Please wear a face covering inside our buildings and observe social distancing.

Reading and Reflection Second Sunday of Lent

Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

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.

A Reflection

The letter to the church at Philippi is perhaps the most exuberant of Paul's letters to the new Churches founded during his travels around the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea.

Today you hear him, "with tears in my eyes" telling his readers "they are citizens of heaven". His was a ministry of encouragement and we should take that to heart. We must take that seriously when we seem to be surrounded only by difficulties of being The Church of our own day. Always, it seems, you must return to your roots and the root of the Christian faith is the generosity of God; our thanksgiving for that must be in our worship and in our generosity.

Henry Newman has two complementary verses in his great hymn "Praise to the hope in the height", one begins "O wisest love", the other "O generous love". In the natural world, in the universe, in humankind you see evidence of God's generosity. It is possibly because we are aware that all is not well, we continue to be concerned both at humankind's inhumanity, one to another, and of the abuse of the planet that now leads us further to be fearful for the future.

Our hope is, as Paul reminds you, in another letter (2 Corinthians 6) that you are fellow workers together with God; it is a theme passionately stated by St Augustine: "Without him we cannot; without us, he will not". True, we are creatures of time and space; we know we need to find God somewhere if he is to be found everywhere; if we try to find him everywhere we shall end up finding him nowhere. That is why the Church as a community of believers and Church the sacred place within our community is of vital importance.

Christians are at their best when they work together within both of those understandings of The Church; that is why Paul, with 'joy and longing' knows that this is what it means to 'stand firm in the Lord'.

Online Worship

Second Sunday of Lent - 13th March 2022

The Church of England broadcasts a live service at 9am every Sunday via their Youtube channel. You can join by clicking the link below.

[Click here to join](#)

Children's Corner

The Young Church Mag for the Second Sunday of Lent is about a secret meeting at night. There's a wordsearch, codes to crack, colouring and prayers to help you learn the right way to go, and it can be downloaded and printed by clicking [this link](#).

Lent Course

Please note: no online forum this week.
 Please attend on Saturday 12th instead of Wednesday 16th.

LENT FORUM 2022

Christ and the Chocolaterie

Based on the book by Hilary Brand

Christ and the Chocolaterie is a Lent Forum inspired by the film *Chocolat*.

Using the film as a starting point for explaining issues about God, the world and what it means to be human, the themes of the five sessions are:

- **Giving Up** - the prelude to transformation
- **Giving Out** - the power of a gift
- **Getting Wise** - the possibility of transformation
- **Getting Real** - the power of acceptance
- **Growing Up** - the process of transformation

"We define community as a group of people who, regardless of their backgrounds and beliefs, have been able to accept and transcend their differences, enabling them to communicate effectively and openly."

Each session includes: extracts from the film, group discussion questions, exercises and meditation, suggestions for individual reading and related Bible passages.

It is strongly recommended that you watch the whole film prior to the forum. If you do not have your own copy there will be a showing of the film in St Andrew's church on Sunday 27 February at 2.30pm finishing by 4.30pm. This is a private showing only. Therefore if you would like to attend please RSVP to benefice.bcmu@gmail.com by Thursday 24 February. Chocolate of many forms will be available!

FACEtoFACE Dates	Date	Session
Place: St Andrew's	5 March	1
Day: Saturday	12 March	2
Time: 9.00am-10.30am	19 March	3
Refreshments as you arrive	26 March	4
	2 April	5

ZOOM Dates	Date	Session
Please email Benefice Office for Zoom Link	9 March	1
Day: Wednesday	16 March	2
Time: 7.00pm-8.30pm	23 March	3
Please bring your own refreshments!	30 March	4
	6 April	5

It is hoped that as you embark on this Lenten journey, it will enable you too to become a stronger community.

Worship in March

Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday
 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Sunday 6th March - First Sunday of Lent
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Sunday 13th March - Second Sunday of Lent
 9:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of the Book of Common Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
 4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Sunday 20th March - Third Sunday of Lent
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Saturday 26th March
 4:00pm Mothering Saturday Cafe Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Sunday 27th March - Mothering Sunday
 10:15am - Family Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 10:15am - Mothering Sunday worship, St Andrew's, Blagdon
 5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Regular Weekday Worship

Monday
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Tuesday
 10:00am - Mini Melodies - a toddler group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Wednesday
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon (except 2nd March)

Thursday
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom. Please email benefice.bcmu@gmail.com for the link

DIOCESE OF Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Connect

Message for International Women's Day

In the last couple of years in the Church of England the number of women offering for ordained ministry has been about the same as that of men. Perhaps this was partly encouraged by seeing women becoming Bishops, something only permitted seven years ago, that now both women and men are being considered equally. I was the fifth female bishop in the Church of England but now we have five out of 42 female Diocesan Bishops, four Acting Diocesans (of which I am one) and 21 suffragan or assistant bishops.

However, despite the increase in female clergy there still effectively remains a disparity in terms of their status. There are fewer women who are paid for their ministry rather than undertaking it voluntarily. Fewer who have additional responsibilities such as deanery leadership or who train other priests. And yet as I look at some of our female ministers both clergy and lay leaders, I see talented, intelligent, energetic, innovative, courageous, deeply prayerful, and fabulous women! Through their stepping into new territory, breaking glass ceilings, and willingness to engage with challenge and conflict, I have hope for the future!

+Ruth

THE BENEFICE OF BLAGDON WITH CHARTERHOUSE, COMPTON MARTIN AND UBLEY

SEMINARS

LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Discover, learn and share about marriage, sexuality, relationships and marriage

By becoming inclusive we allow ourselves to overcome our anxiety or prejudice about certain groups of people. Your love for each other, friend or stranger, is a mirror of God's love for you.

Join our Conversation

Along with church communities across the country, we are partaking in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward for our National Church in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. After our session our learnings, reflections and insights will be shared with our National Church.

What we will be talking about

Examining 6 roadblocks - prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy, and power - that impair relationships, hinder our personal growth as Christians, and create barriers that stop our churches from growing into Christian communities of welcome and belonging, we will draw on the Bible, theology, science and history and real-life stories - of others and our own - as we listen to God's call to each of us to be a Christian community of trust and mutual affection.

Worship	Refreshment	Time	Location
Sunday 27 March	Iona Worship	5.00-5.40pm	St Bartholomew
Seminar 1	Learning together / Identity	6.00-7.30pm	
Worship	New Horizon Worship	5.00-5.40pm	
Sunday 3 April	Refreshment		St Hugh
Seminar 2	Intimacy / Life together	6.00-7.30pm	

The Living in Love & Faith seminars will be followed after Easter by six **Pastoral Principles Seminars** to enable our church community to examine afresh our life together.

THE CASSIOPEIA ENSEMBLE PRESENTS ...

AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC

SATURDAY 30th APRIL 7:00PM

Mozart 'Dissonance' String Quartet K 465
 Schumann Piano Quintet Op. 44

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BLAGDON, BS40 7FS

ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT: 07879 193517

TICKETS | £6

WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

Prayer within our Community

We have been asked to pray for:

In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret.

In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for Jack and Toby and their families as they prepare for baptism, and Joseph and Alexandra and Katherine and Christopher as they prepare for marriage.

We pray for the repose of the souls of Janice Dean, Diane Green and Jacqueline Groves and for their families and friends who mourn.

*Almighty and eternal God,
 from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
 either by death or life;
 hear our prayers and thanksgivings
 for all whom we remember this day;
 fulfill in them the purpose of your love;
 and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

For those who live in Ubley

Ubley Cares
 Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst
 Email: j1landj2@sky.com

For those who live in Compton Martin:

Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish
 Email: comptonmartin.co@gmail.com
 Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett
 Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett
 Email: peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com
 Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston