

News for the Pews

Date: 26th February 2023

Sunday: 1st week of Lent



News and Views

Our Lent course got off to a good start this week as we looked at the “holy habit” of biblical teaching. We read Luke’s Gospel account of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. We noted how he resisted temptation by the devil because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was familiar with the Hebrew bible. From these he could draw strength and wisdom. We reflected on the importance for us of being shaped and guided by biblical teaching, whether that is in church, through small groups or individually. We talked about creative and imaginative ways of engaging with scripture – through art and music, nature, our senses. We noted some helpful tips for when we read the bible: to observe – what do you notice in the text; to reflect – how do you *feel* as you read it; to interpret – what do you understand the passage is saying; to decide – what are you going to do as a result of your engagement with the passage. Next week we will be looking at the holy habits of serving, gladness and generosity. You are welcome to join us!

Events for the week

Monday 27th February – Messy Church meeting at 7.30pm in Stockton Church

Wednesday 1st March – Lent Lunch from 12noon in Stockton Church

Wednesday 1st March – Lent Course at 7.30pm in Stockton Church

Friday 3rd March – World Day of Prayer at 10.30am in St. Leonard’s Church, Priors Marston

Sunday 5th March – the baptism of Aurora at 2pm in St. Michael’s Church, Stockton

Looking ahead

Saturday 11th March – Joint PCC meeting, 9am for 9.30am in Stockton Church. Please let me know if you are planning to attend. (This is a significant meeting for the future of the Group.)

Service next Sunday 5th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent:

10.30am – service of Holy Communion at St. Lawrence’s Church, Napton with the Bishop of Warwick preaching and presiding. This will be the only service of the day.

Bible readings for the week are: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and John 3:1-17

And finally

At our Ash Wednesday service this week, we were reminded about the meaning of Lent. Lent is a time that Christians have observed from early days as we recall Jesus’ time spent in the desert – a time of preparation, a time of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, we take to heart the call to repentance and also the assurance of forgiveness that is proclaimed in the gospel, and so we grow in faith and devotion to our Lord. We were invited, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word. I commend this practice to you.

The collect for Ash Wednesday: “Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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. Amen.”

God bless,
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines)