



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY PARISH
CHURCH & ST MARY & ALL SAINTS
CHURCH, FILLONGLEY WITH
FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends

I am not a cat!

One of the highlights of this week was the BBC news item about Texas attorney Rod Ponton. Like so many of us, Rod's working life has moved onto the Internet. Unfortunately for Rod, his assistant's little girl had been able to set a Zoom filter that meant that Rod appeared in the courtroom as a fluffy white kitten. If you haven't seen the item then you can find it on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcnnl6HD6DU>

The way that the judge dealt with the mishap was a lesson in grace. He didn't get cross or make fun of the attorney, but gently tried to help him recover from a potential professional embarrassment. The item really did make me laugh. If you watched it live, the presenters Dan Walker and Louise Minchin also really enjoyed the item and it brought obvious joy to them on a day when most of the news they had to report was negative.

It is so important to be able to laugh in these difficult days. It is so important to find joy in the everyday encounter. It is so important to have hope. Hope that things will get better, that this pandemic will soon be under control and we will be able to resume so many of the things that give us joy and laughter.

Gathering together in church is something that gives many of us joy (and occasionally laughter!) but at the moment, as we are still in the midst of a national lockdown, the Church Councils have decided that it is still not appropriate to hold in-person worship in church. I am really hopeful that this is a very temporary situation. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is due to speak to the nation on 22nd February to outline a timetable of a return to some sort of normality. I am hopeful that on the 22nd we will move back into some kind of tier system, and at that point the Church Councils will re-assess the situation and hope to move back to in-person worship some time before Easter. We will keep our congregational and community safety at the forefront of any decision and be guided by the scientific advice.

In the meantime, church in its wider sense is not closed. We can gather together via the wonder that is Zoom (without the cat filter!) for our meetings and also for our Sunday evening Service of the Word at 5pm. If you don't have a computer or have a computer that doesn't support Zoom then you can dial in to the service via your telephone using the numbers at the bottom of the Zoom invitation. We can gather and participate in a service of Holy Communion every Sunday via YouTube. I do encourage you to try both and see which format works best for you. All the service details and the downloadable orders of service are available on our Benefice website or you can contact me if you are unable to find them. <https://fillongleyandcorleychurch.wordpress.com>

With Lent fast approaching, our **Ash Wednesday service** will be via Zoom on Wednesday 17th February at 7pm. The order of service will be available on the website and the invitation is below.

Our **Lent course** this year will be 'Pilgrim: Turning to Christ'. Six sessions starting on Monday 22nd February at either 10am or 7pm. Please do get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to join the course so I can get a course booklet to you next week. Each session is 'stand-alone' so if you miss one session you can easily catch up. The course is a mixture of input by really great modern theologians and discussion. It is a course that I have used in several contexts before and it has always been well received.

Coventry Diocese have also produced some wonderful resources for Lent this year, called Leaning into Lent. The resources can be found at <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/leaning-into-lent-2021>

Despite the snow, there have been some real signs of spring this week. Catkins shining bright, snowdrops bravely waving their beautiful heads over the lying snow, spring-green lichen on tree trunks and ferns starting to unfurl. The days are getting longer and we will soon be thinking about the joyful news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. So, take heart, this season will pass and one day soon, God willing, we will all be able to gather again in safety.

If, as always, it would be helpful to talk or pray with someone, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Rev Jane or any member of the church team.

God bless you and yours Ali

Topic: **Ash Wednesday Service**

Time: Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86879822998?pwd=SU1PcFBYbM2VwbVM2VUFtWUpMUXVCUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 7982 2998

Passcode: 728690

Dial by your location

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 868 7982 2998 Passcode: 728690

Topic: **Sunday Evening Service of the Word at 5pm**

Time: Feb 7, 2021 05:00 PM London

Feb 7, 2021 05:00 PM

Feb 14, 2021 05:00 PM

Feb 21, 2021 05:00 PM

Feb 28, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 7, 2021 05:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVlWeXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

Dial by your location

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

Here is the link to Sunday's Service on
YouTube ~

<https://youtu.be/271CYLdEyoM>

Readings and Prayers for Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021 & Sunday 14th February 2021 ~ The Sunday next before Lent

Collects ~ Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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**

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

Sunday next before Lent

2 Kings 2: vs 1-12

Psalm 50 vs 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: vs 3-6

Mark 9 vs 2-9

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: vs 1-2, 12-17

Isaiah 58: vs 1-12

Psalm 51 vs 1-18

2 Corinthians 5: vs 20b – 6: vs 10

Matthew 6: vs 1-6, 16-21 or John 8: vs 1-11



Reflection

You will find Revd Ali's Reflection for this Sunday attached to this bulletin. Revd Jane has also done a Worship Sheet for this Sunday which includes her Reflection.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-

May the mind of Christ my saviour (StF 504)

O thou who camest from above (StF 564)

There's a light upon the mountains (StF 188)

Jesus – the name high over all (StF 357)

If you feel that it is time you had a good sing along with a large group then here is the link to the congregation at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London singing this famous hymn by Charles Wesley to the tune Lydia.

[Jesus! the Name High over All - YouTube](#)

PRAYERS

Throughout February we are invited by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray for our nation. It is suggested that you set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need each other. Prayer is an expression of love.



A Prayer in times of solitude

Still is the earth; make still my body.
Still is the night; make still my mind.
Still are the spheres; make still my soul.

A Prayer for a Living Faith

Lord of all life and love, walk with us throughout our pilgrimage of earth, teaching us daily how to bless others through service, how to find strength in weakness and how to experience growth by letting go, for your name's sake. **Amen**

Spirit of the living God

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me. *Daniel Iverson*

POET'S CORNER

CHURCH TIMES 05 FEBRUARY 2021

Malcolm Guite imagines himself in Andrew Marvell's garden

It is not yet the weather for sitting at leisure in my garden; so I do it vicariously, from the comfort of my study, by rereading Andrew Marvell's classic poem "The Garden", imagining myself with him "While all flow'rs and all trees do close, To weave the garlands of repose."

There's something in the incantatory beat of those short, four-stress rhyming couplets which does, indeed, magically transport the mind:

*The mind, that ocean where each kind
Does straight its own resemblance find,
Yet it creates, transcending these,
Far other worlds, and other seas;
Annihilating all that's made
To a green thought in a green shade.*

Though in these long hours, locked down as much by inclement weather as by national regulations, I needn't fantasise about being anywhere other than my own study; for the society of my books, and the pleasures of a pipe and a pint, can "make one little room an everywhere" (as Donne said of a rather different set of pleasures). At any rate, it is, paradoxically, a way of defying loneliness to embrace and make the most of it, and say with Marvell: "Society is all but rude, To this delicious solitude."

So, on a rainy afternoon, I lit up my old Peterson "Sherlock Holmes" pipe and mused that, since the great detective enjoyed a "three-pipe problem", I might enjoy composing a "three-pipe poem". I found, as I did so, that Marvell's metre had set the poem's pace, and that a stanza of Betjeman's had given the poem form; so it turns out that I wasn't so alone after all, for some fine poets were keeping me company and lending a hand, and the poem was finished well before the third pipe!

A Three Pipe Poem

*And so my solitude resumes,
I settle down to light my pipe
And fill the air with fragrant fumes
And muse awhile, till I am ripe
With mellowed verse, and empty time
Is ready to be filled with rhyme.*

*Ranged on my shelves in patient print
The poets keep me company:
One phrase of theirs might be the hint,
The prompt for some new harmony;
Their echoes in my mind repeat
And their old metres keep the beat.*

*For in my mind their minstrelsy
Is somehow kindled and renewed,
As Andrew Marvell stands with me
In my “delicious solitude”,
I smoke a pipe with Tennyson
And Larkin nods to Betjeman.*

*Their echoes in my mind repeat,
Their cadences enrich my soul,
Call me to capture, to complete,
To make my broken verses whole,
To draw their courses where they run
And mould the many into one.*

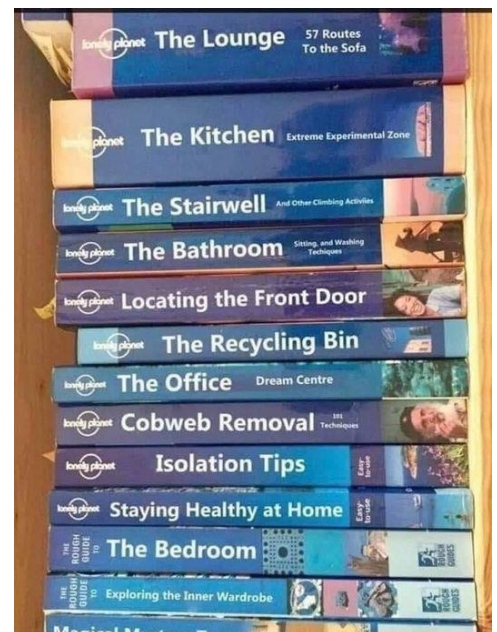
*So help me, my old Peterson,
And let your incense still inspire,
Smoke sweetly till my task is done,
Your bowl aglow with friendly fire,
Until I bring, in true repose,
My three-pipe poem to a close.*

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular 'Poet's Corner' which will now be included here each week for you to enjoy.

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for the Sunday next before Lent
- ✚ Worship Sheet and Reflection from Revd Jane for the Second Sunday before Lent
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ Sunday 14th February 2021
- ✚ Order of Service for Ash Wednesday ~ 17th February 2021
- ✚ Transcript of the Sermon preached by the Bishop of Coventry on 7th February 2021.



Your Travel Guides for 2021.

AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

ⁱ *Contact Details:*

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