



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



Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.

Dear Friends,

Lent has begun.

Traditionally, we start Lent with a solemn gathering in church for an Ash Wednesday service. A time to acknowledge that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. Despite the solemnity, the service also recognises the incredible truth that by acknowledging our sins, we are then on a road to forgiveness. The first step to forgiveness is admitting to ourselves and to God that we don't always get it right. We don't always behave in the way that we should. We don't always act in a way that is honouring to ourselves and to God. But the great news is that once we have acknowledged our sin, said sorry to God, then God offers forgiveness and the opportunity of a fresh start. It is a cliché, but clichés have power because they contain truth; that each day is the first day of the rest of your life with God. God has given us this new day and it is up to us how to use it.

In the past I would have offered lots of different resources prior to Lent as a way to encourage us all to follow a Lenten discipline. Again, traditionally, we talk about giving something up – maybe chocolate, coffee or alcohol – small privations that remind us that we are consciously making an effort to acknowledge our failings and to change. Alternatively, some people would take up something new; exercise, daily prayer, or supporting a new charity. Both of these approaches have merit if they work for you. In this year of pandemic we have already given up a lot of the things that we enjoy. Time with family, friends, work, hobbies and even gathering together to worship. As a clergy friend of mine puts it 'this might be the 'lentiest' Lent ever!'

The leadership at the Diocese have recognised this and suggested that this Lent should be a kind and gentle Lent. By being kind to ourselves and others – maybe practicing a daily act of kindness (again to ourselves as well as others). And not beating ourselves up if we slip in our planned Lenten discipline. And using resources that others have produced instead of trying to plan something new for ourselves. To this end there are lots of resources on the website to help: <https://coventry.anglican.org/leaning-into-lent-2021/>.

Something that I try to do is to read a new book in Lent – and if that appeals to you then I have lots of different books that I could lend you – again, in a non-Covid year I would have a table at the back of church with a selection of books that might be of interest. So, if you would like to try a new book then drop me an email or give me a call and I can drop a book off to you. I have a selection of fiction as well as non-fiction books.

Or there is a Lent course – this year I am offering the Church of England's Pilgrim course (www.pilgrimcourse.org) on each Monday in Lent, either at 10am or 7pm depending on numbers. There is still time to get involved, so if you haven't yet received your course book (some may still be in the post) then get in touch and we can journey through Lent together by reading and

reflecting together in a relaxed atmosphere. I'm afraid that you will have to provide your own coffee and cake for the sessions though.

However you decide to mark Lent this year, my hope and prayer for all of us is that as we journey through the season we may grow closer in our walk with God.

But if this really does feel like the 'lentiest' lent ever and it would help to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact me, Revd Jane or anyone on the church team and we will do our best to help.

With love and prayers

Ali

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/_hgV2eVif0k

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 21st February 2021

The First Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

Genesis 9: vs 8-17

Psalms 25 vs 1-9

1 Peter 3: vs 18-end

Mark 1: vs 9-15



Reflection

You will find Revd Ali's Reflection for this Sunday attached to this bulletin. Also attached is Revd Ali's reflection for Ash Wednesday.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

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

[When Jesus came to Jordan \(StF 233\)](#)

[Jesus, remember me \(StF 777\)](#)

This beautiful chant from the Taizé Community can be heard on this link.

[JESUS, REMEMBER ME - YouTube](#)

It is a lovely one to listen to while sitting quietly and enjoying time with God.

[Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us \(StF 238\)](#)

[Seek ye first the kingdom of God \(StF 254\)](#)

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 for Lent

Creator God and Saviour, who chose in love to make this world, inviting us to share in its care, renewal and nurture, forgive us for the many wrong choices we have made. This Lent we choose again to join with you in the reconciling and healing of all things, as by your Spirit you both renew the face of the earth and also restore us in your image, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Teach me

When to be silent and when to speak,
When to listen and when to leave,
When to praise and when to refrain,
When to laugh and when to weigh,
When to tell and when to wait.

All the kingdoms of the world

'So here's the deal and this is what you get:
The penthouse suite with world-commanding views,
The banker's bonus and the private jet
Control and ownership of all the news
An 'in' to that exclusive one percent,
Who know the score, who really run the show
With interest on every penny lent
And sweeteners for cronies in the know.
A straight arrangement between me and you
No hell below or heaven high above
You just admit it, and give me my due
And wake up from this foolish dream of love...'
But Jesus laughed, 'You are not what you seem.
Love is the waking life, you are the dream.'

Malcolm Guite

Malcolm Guite is alerted to everyday moments of epiphany in outward and visible signs



“EVERY day moments of epiphany are bestowed on everyone.” I was very struck by this remark, from the introduction to a book, ostensibly about violin-making, which had arrived as an unexpected present from a friend, and proved itself to be just one of those “moments of epiphany”.

Martin Schleske’s *The Sound of Life’s Unspeakable Beauty* is a series of reflections on his work as a master violin-maker. On the one hand, it is an account of all the parts and processes of his art and craft, from going out into high Alpine forests to select the trees that will provide the best tone woods, through to the storing, drying, shaping, carving, and stringing of the instruments.

But each of these stages and processes, thoroughly familiar to a master craftsman of many years’ standing, seems to release, for him, in his reflective writing, a series of analogies and metaphors — more than that, emblems and symbols — offering wisdom for the way we live our lives, and particularly for our lives as Christians.

The whole book is a series of examples of how the outward and visible can give voice and expression to the inward and spiritual. And yet none of these outward and visible images and processes is exotic or recherché, but they are, rather, part of his everyday work. But you have the sense that, for the man himself, the epiphanies that they offer are continually surprising. As he says in one of the early chapters, “An alert faith does not become accustomed either to God or to the world.” His book set me thinking about my own daily routines, about the everyday things with which I am surrounded: the furniture of my house, my books and pipes, the garden with its trees and bird-feeder, and, beyond them, always ready to greet me on my daily walks, the ever-changing flow of the little River Granta.

Schleske’s book heightened my sense of expectation that all these familiar things might also be waiting to disclose surprising epiphanies, and he is, indeed, right; for sometimes they do: it’s just a matter of being alert enough, and pausing long enough, to receive them. I have begun, therefore, to pause and wait a little, to be alert in the midst of the familiar. A favourite pausing place, for me, is the wooden bridge over the Granta that leads up to a green lane near Little Linton. Gazing down from the bridge into the stream, I realised that my accustomed spot on the bridge was, in fact, directly over a black rock on the river bed, sometimes fully submerged, but, more often than not, just emerging from the stream. I’ve no idea how it got there, since rocks of that size are not common among the clay and broken flint of the valley, but there it is.

And, today, I found it speaking to me about the paradox of stasis and flow. There it is, unmoved, as the water flows round it, as I stand above it, and also unmoved as time streams past me. And yet, because it is still, because it resists, the stream itself is turned into lovely patterns and ripples, little wavelets, as though the experience of resistance were itself provoking the stream into beauty.

There was something suggestive there, I felt, about the way in which the constant impediments of this strange time might nevertheless give rise to new beauties, if only we will let them.

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 is now included here each week for you to enjoy.

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for the first Sunday of Lent
- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for Ash Wednesday
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ Sunday 21st February 2021



This photograph of the Cathedral Ruins from the spire was taken in 1958. The picture shows many forgotten features of interest including to the left of the picture and outside the frame the new Cathedral foundations were already in place and the Cathedral Undercroft was almost finished.

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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