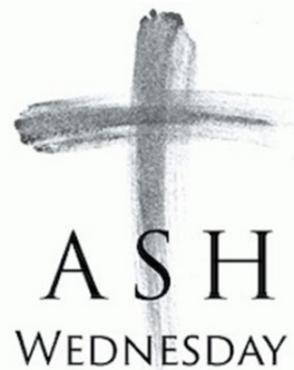


What's on

Pre School Praise



Is back after the half-term break through to Easter from 10am in Church with Praise and worship, singing, music and craft activities and don't forget the yummy cakes and drinks. Catering for 0-4yrs and their carers.



Service in Church
with imposition of ashes
7-30pm
Ashing in the community at



Prestwich Metro at 4-00pm

Ashing at St.Mary's School in the afternoon.

Regular worship at St Mary's



Sunday

8.00am Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer*
8.00am Eucharist*

Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer*
8.00am Eucharist*
10.00am Eucharist

Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer*
8.00am Eucharist*
10.00am Pre-School Praise

Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer*
8.00am Eucharist*
9.15am Eucharist in St Mary's School

Services marked * take place in St.Mary's Church, Church Lane. Pre-School Praise and the Friday morning School Eucharist do not take place during the summer holidays.

St Mary's parish prayer

Loving Father, we pray your blessing on our parish. Help us to have hearts open to your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to follow the way of Christ. Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer and loving service. Help us to play our part in building up your Kingdom here and now.

Contact us



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Twitter: [@stmaryprestwich](#)

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Post: St Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, Prestwich, M25 1AN

Assistant Curate: Carole Barnet telephone 0161 766 2774

Assistant Curate:

Owen Edwards telephone 07512760823

Church Wardens:

Stewart Barnet tel 07950 354445;

Susie Mapledoram tel 07710 557833

Vacancy Prayer

*Loving Father,
We pray for our Parish during this
vacancy period.
We pray for our Church
Wardens and PCC as they lead us at
this time.
Help us to share
responsibility, love one
another and care for those in need.
Together, may we
flourish and continue to grow in
faith.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, stir
the heart of our new Priest to dis-
cern your Will.
Prepare them to serve You and this
Parish with love and joy.
Amen*

Lenten Study

"The Last Week"

Starting 29 March (3 Fridays)

See Rev. Carole

Bible Study

"The Acts of the Apostles"

Each Wednesday in Lent
10-30am

See Re. Owen



Monthly News—March 2019

Free



Welcome from the Wardens and Ministry team

As we journey through lent ending in the great festival of Easter it allows us all to consider if we each could think of a sacrifice we could make for the forty days from Ash Wednesday or alternatively what extra activity or support we could do during Lent.

This is particularly the case during a vacancy where the burden of responsibility to run and minister the parish falls to a small number of our team. Could you help in any way to promote and grow the Kingdom here at St.Mary's, whether practically, administratively or pastorally please talk to the Wardens, Susie and Stewart

Things to know about the season of Lent

When does Lent begin? Lent begins on Ash Wednesday,

which is the day on which they faithful have their foreheads signed with ashes in the form of a Cross. It ends at noon on Holy Saturday. The 40 days excludes the five Sundays of Lent.

Why do we have our foreheads

marked with a cross on Ash Wednesday? Because in the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership.

By having their foreheads marked with the sign of a cross,

this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross. This is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil, and made a servant of righteousness and Christ (Rom. 6:3-18).

It is also in imitation of the way the righteous are described in the book of Revelation: "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads." (Rev 7:3)

Why is the signing done with ashes? Because ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and penance. In Bible times the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes, and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no longer normally wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and penance have survived to this day. These are two of the key distinctions of Lent. In fact, Ash Wednesday is a day not only for putting ashes on one's head, but also a day of fasting.

Is there another significance to the ashes? Yes. They also symbolize death and so remind us of our mortality. Thus when the priest uses his thumb to sign one of the faithful with the ashes, he says, "Remember, that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return," which is



modeled after God's address to Adam (Gen 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 90:3; Ps 104:29, Ecc 3:20). This also echoes the words at a burial, "Ashes to ashes; dust to dust," which is based on God's words to Adam and Abraham's confession, "I am nothing but dust and ashes" (Gen 18:27). It is thus a reminder of our mortality and our need to repent before this life is over and we face our Creator.

Where do the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from?

They are made by burning palm fronds which have been saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday, they are then blessed by a priest -- blessed ashes having been used in God's rituals since the time of Moses (Num 19:9-10, 17).

Why are Sundays excluded from the reckoning of the forty days?

Because Sunday is the day on which Christ rose, making it an inappropriate day to fast and mourn our sins. On Sunday we must celebrate Christ's Resurrection for our salvation. It is Friday on which we commemorate his death for our sins. The Sundays of the year are days of celebration and the Fridays of the year are days of penance.

Why is Lent forty days long?

Because 40 days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God 40 days (Ex 24:18, 34:28), Elijah traveled 40 days before he reached the cave

where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given 40 days to repent (Jon 3:4), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and fasting (Matt 4:2). Since Lent is a period of prayer and fasting, it is fitting for Christians to imitate their Lord with a 40-day period. Christ used a 40-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his ministry.

Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church is a group of Christians uniting together around our statement of belief:



"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high

and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

Inclusive Church was initiated in 2003 in response to a particular incident within the life of the Church of England. The Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John had been nominated as Bishop of Reading; this was withdrawn when it became publicly known that Jeffrey John was in a long-term same-sex relationship. The unease felt by so many led to the creation of an on-line petition, asking individuals and churches to support what became known as the Inclusive Church.

Inclusive Church is a charity (no. 1102676) and has grown and developed since our foundation in 2003. Although originally Anglican in origin, they work with churches of different denominations. Always much more than a single-issue organisation they work to support, and challenge the church to be open and inclusive to all people.

They work in Partnership. And value their strong working links with a number of different organisations.

- AFFCATH
- Changing Attitudes
- Christians Against Poverty, Church Action on Poverty.
- Church Urban Fund
- Disability and Jesus
- Mental Health Matters
- Time to Change
- WATCH (network connecting women in the Church)

They work with churches. We have a national directory of over 250 churches. They work with individuals. Inclusive Church is very much a 'grass roots' organisation dealing on social issues: Ethnicity, Sexuality, Mental Health, Gender, Disability and Poverty.

Archbishop in Hot Water

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is facing a backlash after opting to ban the same-sex spouses of Anglican bishops from an upcoming summit.



It was announced on February 15 that Welby had barred same-sex spouses from attending the Lambeth Conference, a once-a-decade meeting of global Anglican church leaders that is set to go ahead in 2020. The decision to bar same-sex spouses appears intended to quell dissent from anti-LGBT church leaders within the Anglican Communion, which faces an increasingly fractious

split between LGBT-inclusive and anti-LGBT churches around the world.

He was joined by fellow Labour MP Ben Bradshaw, who branded the decision "wholly retrograde and unacceptable." Welby has not responded to the criticism of the decision to bar gay spouses from the £4,950-a-head event.

The summit is due to be held at the University of Kent's Canterbury campus in July 2020.

The official website for the conference states: "The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is sending personal invitations to every eligible bishop and spouse (excluding same-sex spouses) and is looking forward immensely to hosting them." Ironically, it adds that spouses are invited "in recognition of the vital role spouses play across the Anglican Communion and a desire to support them in their ministry."

The Bishop of Liverpool Rt.Rev. Paul Bayes remarked that he would leave his wife at home in solidarity and support with gay bishops.

(from an internet article for Pink News)

Readings from the Lectionary

Breathing Space

"A time for you with God"

2nd Wednesday of each month

13 March, 10 April

8-00pm to 8-45pm in church

Come and spend 45 minutes of quiet time with God & private reflection.

Lenten Bible Study

Each Wednesday

in Lent after

10-00am Eucharist

In the Tower Room with refreshments

Led by Rev. Owen

for March

3 March - Luke 9:28-36



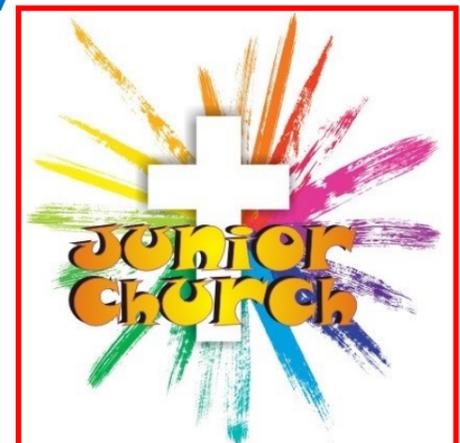
6 March - John 8:1-11

10 March - Luke 4:1-13

17 March - Luke 13:31-end.

24 March - Luke 13:1-9

31 March - Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-end.



We meet each Sunday before and during the 10-30am service to explore God's love for us. Ask a ministry team member for details