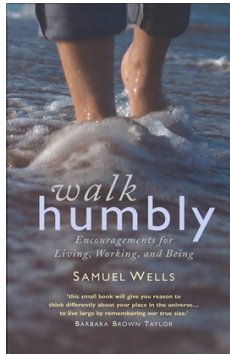




Dear friends

In our last edition of NewsLink, I included some of the resources being promoted for Lent this year. I thought it might help to hear from the Ministry Team and resources they have found, or are finding helpful, stimulating and challenging!



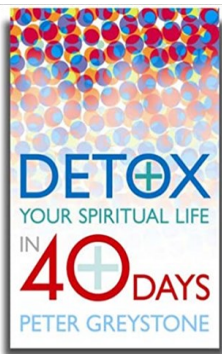
At the Benefice Service last Sunday, I mentioned a book called **Walk Humbly**. It's by Samuel Wells, the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-fields. It's only a small book but on the front cover Barbara Brown Taylor has written 'this small book will give you reason to think differently about your place in the universe...to live large by remembering our true size.'

It's the sort of book that needs to be read and pondered over, sometimes, sentence by sentence. It is a real encouragement for living, for working, for being. Its chapters are Be grateful, Be gentle, Be a person of praise, Be faithful, Be as one body – the church and finally – Be a blessing.

To read and ponder on this book is a real lesson in humility and service. We're encouraged to have a little generosity of heart, so we look at others with gentleness rather than bitterness, compassion rather than anger, and understanding rather than condemnation. As Maya Angelou put it, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

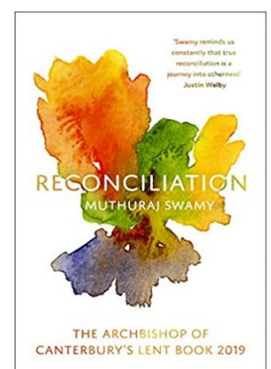
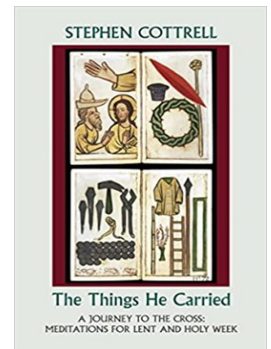
Rachel Pound writes:

Two of my favourite resources for Lent are: **The Things He Carried** by Stephen Cottrell - eight sections so very good for weekly groups as well as individuals with the dedication "For all those carrying heavy burdens" Also **Detox Your Spiritual Life In 40 Days** by Peter Graystone - better suited to individual study/reflection it has 40 sections of roughly five pages grouped in roughly weekly sections; detox your body, detox your standards, detox your past, detox your expectations, detox your relationships, detox your spiritual life. Both of these have bought me blessings.



Keith Charnley writes:

My suggestion for a possible Lent read is Muthuraj Swamy (2019) **Reconciliation** published by SPCK. It was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2019. At that time, I couldn't get on with it, but I recently took it down from my shelf and have been using it ever since. I don't know what has changed in me, but I am now understanding why Justin Welby chose the book as his 2019 read. It comprises 40 reflections on a whole variety of characters in the bible, some familiar and some not. The author has some profound insights of his own and poses questions which are very helpful at least to the present reader's spiritual journey!



For example, Muthuraj Swamy invites us to reflect on Judah's relationship with and behaviour towards Tamar in Genesis 38 and other episodes in Judah's life and behaviour to learn from this man's spiritual journey; very counter intuitive. The book most certainly, as Justin Welby describes it, is "a reminder that true reconciliation is a journey into otherness" (that is the otherness of God and otherness of other human beings".

Please turn to Page 3 for further resources.

Events and Notices

Upcoming Services

Sunday, 20th February

- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh - **Revd Keith Charnley**
Keith Bennett, organist
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley - **Revd Ann Keating**
Harold Jones, organist
- 10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon - **Revd Paul Batson**
Tricia Burns, keyboard

Sunday, 27th February

- 10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with Monkton Farleigh
Revd Bernard Hughes taking. Keith Bennett, organist
- 10.00am Together in Worship at St Nicholas, Winsley - **Rachel Pound taking**
Pippa Tate, keyboard
- 10.30am Refresh, including Baptism at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon - **Revd Ann Keating**
Tricia Burns, keyboard

Wednesday, 2nd March - Ash Wednesday

- 10.30am Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon - **Revd Tessa Mann**
- 7.30pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at St Nicholas, Winsley - **Revd Ann Keating**
Keith Bennett, organist
- 3.00pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes for the residents of Avon Park - **Paul Batson**

Sunday, 6th March - First Sunday of Lent

- 10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley - **Revd Ann Keating**
Keith Bennett, organist

Sunday, 13th March - Second Sunday of Lent

- 10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with Monkton Farleigh - **Revd Bernard Hughes, Keith Bennett, organist**
- 10.00am Refresh at Winsley Church Hall - **Revd Keith Charnley. Pippa Tate, keyboard**
- 10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, BoA - **Revd Ann Keating. Gerry Hoddinott, organist**
- 3pm Forest Church at St Nicholas, Winsley - **Revd Tessa Mann and Zoe**

Ministry Team:

Rector Rev Ann Keating
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com (722230)
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

Benefice Office:

Caroline Brydon (865046),
nboabenefice@gmail.com
Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Church Wardens:

Winsley: Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)

Christ Church: vacant, Contact Rev Ann Keating

South Wraxall: Dave Wyper (865384)
Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Monkton Farleigh: Vacant. Contact Rachel Exley PCC Secretary (851485)

Lay Pastoral Assistants:

Stephen Pike (782537), Denise Davies (863678)
Gill Fairhurst (867560), Daphne Cox (868224)
Elizabeth Bush (866624), James Middleton (920564)

Children's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans - zyeomans3@gmail.com



Forest Church

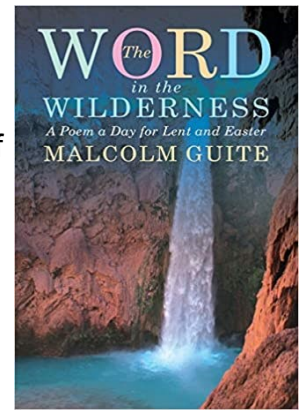
'Signs of Spring' will be held on **Sunday, March 13th** in the churchyard of St Nicholas church, Winsley at 3pm till 4pm. More information to follow on our website and in the next NewsLink.

The next edition of NewsLink will be on the **6th March**. Please email any relevant contributions to Caroline at nboabenefice@gmail.com by Tuesday, 2nd March latest. You can read the full version on our website www.nboachurches.co.uk

If you would like an electronic version of NewsLink or require a hard copy, please email or leave a message for Caroline at the Benefice office on 01225 865046. There are two more pages in this issue, page 1 is continued on page 3.

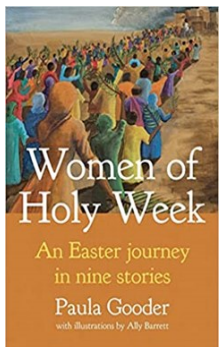
Tessa Mann writes:

This is my all time favourite Lent Book: ***The Word in the Wilderness - A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter***. A poem and reflection for each day of Lent, chosen by Malcolm Guite - poet and priest. Each day provides food for the soul. Poetry ranges from medieval to living writers, including some of Malcolm's own poetry. I have used this book over a number of years and each time it provides a spiritual adventure like no other. Published by Canterbury Press in 2014. ISBN978184256781



Paul Batson writes: I don't have a particular resource for Lent but I do have a 'to do' list which I tend to use. It's my 'spring cleaning' tasks to enrich me 'body, mind and soul'. In no particular order:

Tidy up a cupboard or a file or a shed, have a fun outing - e.g. cinema or theatre or meal, write a long overdue letter to a friend or phone them, read at least one book to feed my Christian faith, have a weekly walk.



Our Benefice Lent Course on Zoom

Revd Paul Batson, Revd Tessa Mann and I will be exploring ***Women of Holy Week*** by Paula Gooder on Wednesdays from 9th March to 6th April. Bring your lunch, relax in front of your PC, iPad or phone, and join us for reflection and discussion from 12.00 – 13.00. If you want to join in, just contact Caroline in the office with your email address and you will be sent an invitation. Help is available if you haven't used Zoom before.

Lent resources from the Church of England

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives, to see the world more deeply and to pray for justice. There are editions for adults and children and the adult's edition offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge for each day of Lent. Copies will be in your churches in time for Lent, so do pick up a copy.



Our own Salisbury Diocesan Lent Devotionals

These weekly reflections, prayers and activities walk with the Lord, who put himself in the wilderness for 40 days to be tempted, but also to pray and focus away from everyday distractions before he began his public ministry.

We will hear from a range of contributors, exploring topics such as:

- Week 1: Evangelism
- Week 2: Discipleship
- Week 3: Collaboration
- Week 4: Leadership
- Week 5: Serving Others
- Week 6: Embracing Justice
- Week 7: Equipping

These resources will be available for us to use each week during Lent. Further details will be available.

BACT (Churches Together in BoA and Villages) Lent Course 2022

Christianity in the Public Square

Many will remember this was the title of the course for 2020, which sadly had to be abandoned after two sessions due to the Lockdown in March that year. We believe the theme, with a little rewriting, is still very much relevant today. There will be an introductory session to enable groups to discuss how the Pandemic has affected all of us, and what lessons have we learned so there will be six sessions altogether, starting in the week beginning 6 March and the final one taking place in Holy Week (10-16 April).

We will be asking 'What should be our Christian response?' to issues such as climate justice, poverty, the acute refugee problem, a possible Russia-Ukraine conflict and how relevant is Christianity today, especially among younger generations. If you would like to know more, please contact **David Driscoll on (01225) 865314 or email: david_driscoll@btinternet.com.**

I hope you find a resource that suits you this Lent, enabling you to explore your spiritual journey, deepen your faith and come closer to God at this time. If you have a favourite resource you would like to share, do let us know. In the meantime, may God bless you richly.

Ann, Rector

Opportunities at St Nicholas for Prayer during Lent

During Lent we will be creating space in St Nicholas for regular private and corporate prayer as follows:

- The prayer corner will be set aside as usual for personal, private prayer with suggestions for prayer for the world, the nation and our community. The material will be updated regularly throughout Lent.
- Starting on Monday 7th March at 10.30am, there will be a weekly prayer time in the church lasting for one hour and led by a member of the congregation. Primarily, this will be to pray for our local community and will include a time of worship and thankfulness. The sessions may also touch on other issues for example the current world situation. The final session will be on Monday 4th April. Please drop in to these sessions for whatever time you have available.

Any queries, please contact Penny on 723284 or email penny@the pierces.me

Penny Pearce

Monkton Farleigh, Lent Group

Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm for about an hour at my house in Monkton Farleigh. There will be 6 sessions starting on 1st March. We will be looking at 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder. I have some copies here.

All are welcome for tea, biscuits and a chat, whether regular church goers or not. Please call me, Di Dobson on 07884 321238 or email me for my address at: di.dobson@btinternet.com if you would like to come along. Many thanks.

Di Dobson

Avon Park Village Lent Group

I shall be leading a Lent Group each Tuesday during Lent (8th; 15th; 22nd; 29th March and 5th April) at 3pm in the Community Room.

We shall be using Paula Gooder's Lent book, 'Women Of Holy Week'. All are welcome.

If you have any queries please contact me - **Paul Batson** on Tel. 720069.

Open the Book Team



...is back in Winsley school after a period of filming stories and putting them on YouTube. It is a privilege and a delight to be back with the children every Thursday morning at Winsley school and to have them



act out the stories with us. Thank you to everyone for supporting us.

Angela Symonds

Half Term Holiday Club

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with this morning of activities and fun for reception to year 6 children at Mount Pleasant on Thursday, 24th February. We have 30 children booked in which is great, do pray for us that all goes well!

Zoe

Weekly Wednesdays at Christ Church

On all but the first Wednesday of the month, a group meets for a chat and a cuppa between 10.30am and 12 noon in Christ Church. Some also bring their knitting needles to add to the relaxation. Everyone is welcome.



Hope to see you there.

Anne Hilton