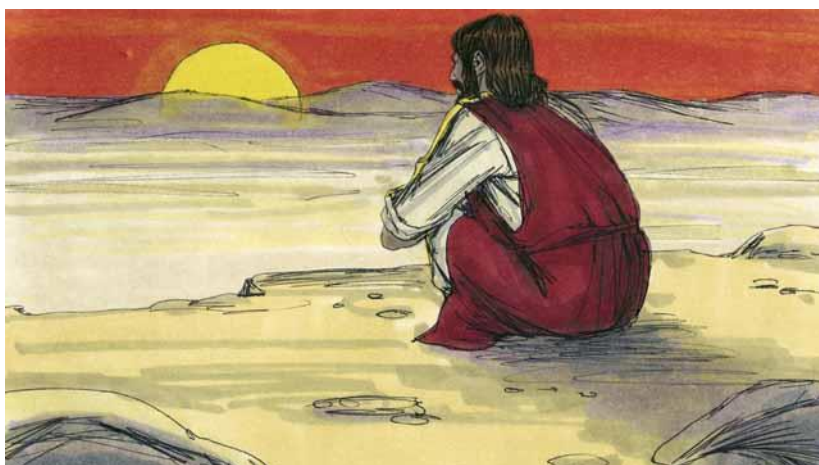


NEWSLETTER

Weeks beginning Sundays 18th and 25th February 2024

First and Second Sundays of Lent



Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter

Sunday 18th February – First Sunday of Lent

- Family Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw**
- **Service of the Word** at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth**
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton**

Sunday 25th February – Second Sunday of Lent

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw**
- Family Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth**

Sunday 3rd March – Third Sunday of Lent

- All Age Worship at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw**
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth**
- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton**

Sunday 10th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent – MOTHERING SUNDAY

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw**
- Family Communion at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton**

Now the 40 days of Lent have begun and we start once again sharing the pilgrimage with Christ towards the dramatic events of Holy Week and Easter. The Old Testament readings for these two Sundays both feature promises or covenants made by God. On Sunday 18th, we hear about God's promise to Noah that he would never again send a flood to destroy the earth. Remember that it was because of the people's disobedience that God sent the flood and then instructed Noah to build the ark in order to save his family, the animals and birds. On Sunday 25th, God speaks to Abram and promises that he will become the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

You may notice, if you look at all of the readings in this Newsletter, that there are themes running through them. One theme which is striking is that of change. God promised not to send a flood again, but in return he expected people's behaviour to change. In his promise to Abram, he said Abram's name would change to Abraham and his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah to mark a new beginning. John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan, marking a transition or change. Jesus told his disciples that he, the Son of Man, would have to endure suffering, rejection, be killed and would rise again from the dead. Change or what?

We are often resistant to change, but Lent provides us with an opportunity to make positive changes. Whatever we have decided to change or take on as a challenge for Lent, be assured that, if we fall short, God's promise will always be renewed for us and we can always try again. Keep going!

'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Note
Sunday 18 th	9.30am	Family Communion	St Chad's, Wishaw
1 st Sunday of Lent <i>Purple</i>	11.15am	Service of the Word	St Nicholas', Curdworth
	11.15am	Holy Communion	St John's, Middleton
	7.00pm	Lent Group	Curdworth Church Hall
Tuesday 20 th	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	St John's Church
Wednesday 21 st	6.00pm	Junior Choir	Curdworth Church Hall
	7.15pm	Church Choir	

Sunday 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent <i>Purple</i>	9.30 am 11.15am 7.00pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Lent Group	St Chad's, Wishaw St Nicholas', Curdworth Curdworth Church Hall
Monday 26 th	7.30pm	Wishaw DCC	The Cock at Wishaw
Tuesday 27 th	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	St John's Church
Wednesday 28 th	6.00pm 7.15pm	Junior Choir Church Choir	Curdworth Church Hall
Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Purple</i>	9.30am 11.15am 11.15am 7.00pm	All Age Worship Holy Communion Service of the Word Lent Group	St Chad's, Wishaw St Nicholas', Curdworth St John's, Middleton Curdworth Church Hall
Tuesday 5 th	7.45pm	Middleton DCC	Park Farm
Wednesday 6 th	6.00pm 7.15pm	Junior Choir Church Choir	Curdworth Church Hall
Sunday 10th 4th Sunday of Lent MOTHERING SUNDAY <i>Purple</i>	9.30am 11.15am 7.00pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Lent Group	St Chad's, Wishaw St Nicholas', Curdworth Curdworth Church Hall



SILENT AUCTION!

Thank you so much for all the offers of items for the Auction and for the bids which have been received so far. The bidding is extended until 29th February. Please have a look at both the main and Supplementary Catalogues and send me your bids by text or email. Many thanks. Margaret

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2024

Sunday services continue as published in the Diary.

SUNDAY 18th February 7.00pm Lent Course Session 1- sessions 2,3 and 4 on 25th February, 3rd and 10th March – at Curdworth Church Hall.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 24th March 6.30pm at St John's, Middleton – the Middleton Choir lead Reflections for Holy Week

Monday 25th March 11.00am at St Chad's, Wishaw – Holy Communion

Tuesday 26th March 7.30pm at St Nicholas', Curdworth – Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 27th March 7.30pm at St Nicholas', Curdworth – Curdworth Church Choir present Music and Readings for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 28th March – 7.30pm at St Nicholas', Curdworth – Holy Communion, including stripping of the altar and leading into the Vigil.

Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day – details to follow.

LENT COURSE 2024 – TASTE AND SEE –

a course based on food and drink

Session 1: The Wedding at Cana – belief, change and transformation

Session 2: Feeding the 5000 -increasing and multiplying, the faith and the faithful

Session 3: Fasting in the Wilderness- discipline, denial and cleansing

Session 4: The Last Supper – together, remember and celebrate.

Each session will be complete in itself. Come along and share light refreshments, good company, learn about the Bible texts and see how they relate to our everyday life 2000+ years later, all in a relaxed setting. Sessions will take place in Curdworth Church Hall and on zoom.

QUIZ NIGHT AT GROUNDS FARM



We are very grateful to Anne and David Mitchell for once again hosting us at Grounds Farm for our Quiz Night on **Saturday 16th March** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 for adults and £5 for under 12s and include supper. The bar will be open for drinks. Tickets are selling fast, so get your order in soon!



Easter Lilies. If you would like to donate towards the cost of Easter lilies in any of our churches, please let a Churchwarden know. Place your donation in an envelope, marked with the name(s) of loved ones you would like to be remembered in our Easter services.

PRAYER LIST – Please remember in your prayers all who are sick and those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Prayers for the sick			
Curdworth	Sharon Brown	Adrian Cionnagh	<i>Yvette Crawford</i>
	<i>Jean Eldridge</i>	<i>Amanda Emerson</i>	Cherie Evans
	Jean Giddings	<i>John Henson</i>	Caroline Lee
	<i>Isabella Murphy</i>	Helen Parry	Jenny Phillips
	Ellie Reeves	Lucinda Shelley	<i>Cathy Smith</i>
	Barbara Vaughan	Margaret Vaughton	<i>Elizabeth Walsh</i>
	<i>Peter Wiggins</i>	Barry Wiltshire	Gillian Wiltshire
	Hollie Wiltshire		

Middleton	<i>Jean Nixon</i>
Wishaw	<i>Isabel Brown</i> Pat Harris <i>Cae Hayes</i>
Prayers for those who have died	
Wishaw	<i>Matthew Nolan</i>



Finance – Here are the bank details for each church for your reference:

St Nicholas': 30-92-75 00610273 (PCC of St Nicholas Curdworth)

St John's: 05-09-42 57896460 (St John the Baptist PCC)

St Chad's: 30-98-37 00152981 (Parochial Church Council Wishaw)

The Newsletter – if you would like anything added to the Newsletter, here are the details you need: margaret_allen69@yahoo.co.uk 07778 458 789 or n.w.phillips@live.com 07498

Link for online services and meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233355603?pwd=bmxQMHpCT3RIM28ybFBHRzGdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 3335 5603 Passcode: 746923

You can join us on the phone by dialling 0203 481 5237

Then Entering: 842 3335 5603## Then: 746923#

Readings for Sunday 18th February 2024

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.**

The Old Testament Reading

is from Genesis chapter 9

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹²God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

is from the first letter of Peter chapter 18

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God

for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Lord God,

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith,

increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word

that proceeds from out of your mouth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for Sunday 25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
 into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
 that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

is from Genesis chapter 17

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 4

¹³The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who

lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
 which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

