

### Other resources

**Daily emails** from the CoFE relating to the #LiveLent initiative.

**Prayers** from the Methodist Church for Lent and Easter.

A **Prayer for the Day** from the Methodist Church.

**Daily Prayer** from the Church of England

An app/website offering a short passage of scripture with daily reflection.

### Annual Lent Appeal to buy clean, safe water



No one should face uncertainty about where they will get clean water from but our changing climate is making life even harder for the world's poorest people, who are already struggling to get the water they need. When Cyclone Aila tore through Bangladesh it flooded whole communities - stealing homes, clean water, and the fertile soil too that sustained families. By supporting our **Jars of Change Appeal** this Lent, you can help to give the most vulnerable communities clean water that withstands our changing climate. Decide now what you will give up and collect the money in an empty jar. When you return to church, tip your money into the bowl provided.

Raising **£288** we could help to pay to test the water quality at four well sites in climate-vulnerable communities, so they can make sure their water keeps them healthy. **£360** could help to train three people to maintain a water pump, so that communities will have a lasting supply of clean water long into the future. **£1000** could help to pay to build a rainwater harvesting system for climate-vulnerable communities, so they can access a supply of clean water in rainy season.



### Lent 2021

'Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore.' So says Dorothy when she wakes up in the Land of Oz. We might feel a bit like this as we prepare for our arrival in Lent this year - we're not in a world we know anymore with the horizon having somehow shifted and familiar landmarks now in different places. As we journey through Lent this year, rather like Oz - where things are similar but not quite the same - there will be echoes of a 'normal' Lent but these will be offered slightly differently.

This leaflet covers the beginning of Lent and how we might join together for this. Information for Holy Week and Easter will come later as changes to everyday life unfold in the coming months.

However you are able to participate in our observing of Lent this year, I hope it will be holy and blessed Season of faithfulness for you.

*Deborah*



### Setting out on the journey

**Shrove Tuesday 16 February**

6pm **Making the ash!** 6pm - Online only

Join Deborah the annual ritual of burning Palm Crosses from previous years to make ash for this year's ashing. If you would like your cross to be burned, place it in the box outside the Vicarage when you are out for your daily exercise. Or burn yours at home for use on Ash Wednesday.

**Ash Wednesday 17 February**

*'turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'*

10.00am **Worship in the Churchyard** for Ash Wednesday

As the Season of Lent begins, we are marked again with the cross with which we were signed at our baptism – a reminder of both death to life and life in death. A short Service during which the Imposition of Ashes will take place - Socially Distanced and with Covid-19 Measures in place.

7.45pm **Worship@Home** for Ash Wednesday

A Service in which we will each use either ash or water to make the sign of the cross with which we were signed at our baptism – a reminder of both death to life and life in death.

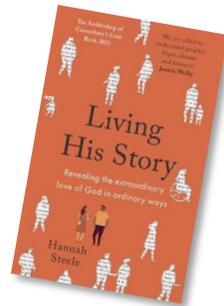
## Continuing the journey...

### Opportunities for Study

Just as we found different ways of being church last year - through all of the different Church Seasons - so we are offering different ways of 'doing' Lent this year. We will begin all of the activities below using Zoom and, if possible, move to meeting in-person in due course. Join any or all of the activities as you are able - but **do join something** as we mark Lent together. All activities and groups will start in the week beginning Sunday 21 February.

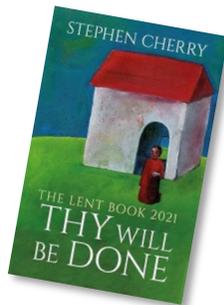
#### Lent Book Group

using the book *Living His Story*, Hannah Steele  
Wednesdays @ 10.30am, facilitated by Dorothy Champion  
Wednesdays @ 2.30pm, facilitated by Christine Payne  
*How can we convey the love of God to our neighbours in a post-Christian world that has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ? In Living His Story, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts.*



#### Lent Reflections Group

using the book *Thy will be done*, Stephen Cherry  
Thursdays @ 7.45pm, facilitated by David Carruthers  
*At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. Stephen Cherry's Lent Book does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian prayers - the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father. Mining the tradition for wisdom and insight, and finding inspiration in the theologians of the past such as St Paul, Gregory of Nyssa, John Calvin, but also more contemporary voices such as Evelyn Underhill, Simone Weil, and Michelle Obama. This most accessible Lent Book, rich in anecdote as well as analysis, is daily bread for the spiritually hungry.*



If you would like a/both book/s ordered for you, please email the Church Office or phone Deborah by **Sunday 7 February** at the very latest.

## Continuing the journey...

### Opportunities for Prayer, Reflection and Worship

#### Lectio Divina

Saturdays @ 9.30am, facilitated by Deborah  
*Lectio divina* - holy reading - is a very different approach to the reading of scripture than the one generally employed by many Christians. *Lectio divina* shows us another way: 'holy leisure', a space in the day for prayerful reading of the scriptures, where we read slowly, reverently and appreciatively. It is reading not for gathering information or for study, but to interact with the Word of God and to respond to what God is offering us.



#### Holy Smoke!

Sundays @ 8pm, facilitated by Deborah  
Come and sit around a metaphorical campfire with your cocoa in hand as stories of faith are shared to warm our hearts, giving thanks for the times and places we have experienced the gifts which we recognise in the Diocesan Living God's Love Prayer: *Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve; Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage; for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus. Amen.* If you have Bible passages, poems, prose, stories from your life of faith, come and share them as we journey through the Lenten desert together.



#### Night Prayer

Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays @ 9.15pm  
Using the ancient Office of Compline, we close the day using scripture, psalm and prayer.

#### Songs for the Journey

Wednesdays 3 March and 7 April @ 7.45pm, facilitated by Deborah  
Taking a psalm and hymn or song as our inspiration, we see where the conversation goes and how our understanding and experience of God might be widened and deepened through the words of our forebears and companions in faith.

#### Spiritual MOTs

With Deborah

Take some time this Lent to reflect on where and how God might want to speak to you, nudge you, lead you by having a kind of 'Spiritual MOT'. We'll listen together and discover what God has been up to - and might want to be up to - in your life. This is the kind of conversation I love and am always inspired by too. Email or phone me to make an appointment to give it a go!