



The Priory Church of St Mary

Keep in Touch

January 2024





PRIORY CHURCH OF ST MARY

Lent Lunch

Scout -Centenary Hall

Sunday 18th February

12:30pm for 1pm start

Soup – cheese and biscuits – pate –apple crumble

TICKETS £10
AVAILABLE FROM DEE, CAROL OR SARAH
DETAILS: DEE_BURY@YAHOO.COM

Sally's Big Lent Walk

A 20 day walk
travelling around
the Ministry Area,
visiting each of
our churches.
Come and join in,
it would be lovely
to have some
company.



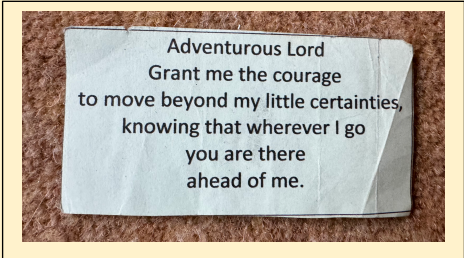
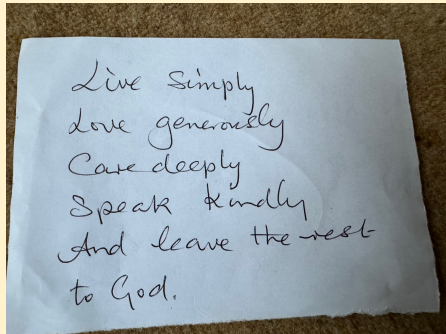
See noticeboard or Facebook for more information.

Lent Resources:
Look out for the Lent resources put together by Rev'd Sue and a team of others. There is something for everyone.

Copies are at the back of church or contact Sarah Byford (usksarah@tiscali.co.uk) for more details.

In the Bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, we encourage you to take up our Lent challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut your carbon footprint.

Personal prayers shared by members of our community that you may appreciate during the season of Lent.



A simple prayer I use every night at the end of my other prayers.

*Lord, keep me safe this night, secure from all my fears.
May angels guard me while I sleep til morning light appears. Amen*

I love the idea of angels guarding me at night...

Reverend Helen shared this poem during her sermon in January.

George VI read a poem that his daughter Elizabeth had given him:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. 'And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.

Let us go with confidence into the days ahead,
trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.
God will not abandon us, for we are the work of His hands – His own creation- and His love endures forever.
So let us go in joy to love and serve the Lord.

A copy of this Celtic prayer sits above my computer screen as a daily reminder of God's everlasting love; to share his love with those I meet and go about my daily tasks in His strength.

Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.
Amen

"Dear Lord, as I begin this day, I offer it to you. Guide my steps, fill me with your love, and help me to shine your light in the world."

"Thank you, God, for the blessings in my life. I am grateful for your love, grace, and the people who surround me."

As you prepare for Lent – an interesting read...

'I think about what I sacrifice: I sacrifice my time to Instagram, my money to eBay, and my attention to Netflix. And then I give them up, feeling like I have made a form of deep sacrifice for God, some digital western sacrifice, so that I can live a more centred and calm life.

But I don't think this is the kind of sacrifice I am called to. I am called to learn to do good, to seek justice, and to correct oppression. When I became a Christian, I didn't join a self-help group. I became a member of God's family with a call to live a life of sacrifice, one that would lead me to help others. My sacrifices shouldn't be about making a better version of me, but as Theophan the Recluse said 'By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His Divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering.'

Ken Wytsma 'Pursuing Justice: The Call to Live and Die for Bigger Things'

Dates for your Diary

14th February – Ash Wednesday

18th February at 12:30pm – Lent Lunch

1st March at 2:30pm – St David's Day Service

1st March (weekend) – Usk Choral Festival

29th March – Good Friday Service

31st March - Easter Sunday

Watch out for details on the noticeboard of:

- Hot Cross Buns and coffee morning
- Stations of the Cross: A time of prayer shared with the Catholic Church in Usk
- Good Friday walk



Everyone is welcome to join the team to help shape the future of the church in the community.

We know we are all busy people and we have changed the time of the meeting to help fit this meeting into your diaries!

Next meeting
17th March at 8:30am to 10am (prior to church)

Watch this space:

- We are hoping to start work on the lighting project after Easter. Due to safety concerns, the church will be closed during the week. Dates will be confirmed in March.
- Work will be starting on the Priory gatehouse by the new owners shortly and scaffolding will be erected.
- Trip to Cirencester planned.
- MA walk with Branwen planned for April

Raven House Trust

On Sunday 18th February and Sunday 10th March we will be collecting food to share with the Raven House Trust Foodbank

Interested in History?

The group are now working together to explore the history of the church through the people and communities who have worshiped in the church over the centuries.

Members of the group are enjoying time researching and understanding more about the community and the impact on the church.

Interested? Contact Debbie for information.

ECO Group

The ECO group are quietly working in the background and supporting the work in the church and within the local community. Please contact Carol Southwell if this is an area you are interested in supporting this important work.

Don't forget to support the climate café in Usk hosted by the Usk Hub, every Thurs 12-2pm. This is a warm space for people to drop in and talk about the planet and climate change; to explore what can be done at an individual and community level; to pick up tips and ideas; and to find out what's already happening.

Used Stamps

To support the RNIB who collect used stamps please save your stamps and place in the collection box in the coffee area.

