

Into the Wilderness

The season of lent reminds us that for the Christian the discipline of the wilderness is never far away. Whether we are '***led by the Spirit into the wilderness***' (Matthew 4:1) as the Lord prompts us and invites us to take on some form of fasting, that is fasting from food or fasting from something else that brings comfort. Or whether through circumstances beyond our control we are '***sent... out into the wilderness***' (Mark 1:12) where, for example, we may have to carry a burden unique to our own lives and it will often be the case that we don't know how long this will last for.

Either way we find ourselves in the wilderness. This is a place in between the joy of us knowing that we are His child, '***You are My Son (my child), whom I love, with You I am well pleased***' (Mark 1:11) and us being sent out '***into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God***' (Mark 1: 14). The wilderness is a season where the gift of being His child is cast in stone so that in due time we are ready to launch out into whatever purpose the Lord has for our lives.

Naturally we will shy away from the wilderness, but may we learn to embrace it for within it and beyond it lies great joy. Paul said '***therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me***' (2 Corinthians 12:9). And because the wilderness is a gift let us be careful that we don't seek to line it with feathers, by trying to turn the hard stone into bread (Matthew 4:3) or to be careless about looking after ourselves physically or spiritually (Matthew 4:6) or to say I'm a celebrity get me out of here and give me my due reward now (Matthew 4:9). Often it is only as we walk out of the wilderness that we realise what the Lord has done as He has both strengthened our identity in Him and wonderfully prepared us for all that He is calling us to **BE** and **DO**.

Revd. Ian



March News

Notice Board

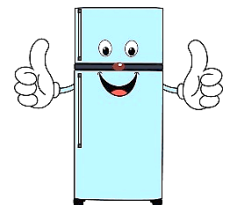


- ♥ As always our **Sunday Services** are in church at 9:45am.
- ♥ **Thursday Prayer time** - Thursdays in church at 9:30am.
- ♥ **Sunday School** - Younger Sunday School in the Lounge every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month, when parents can use the lounge with their children, some resources will be provided to use). Older Sunday School (8-12 years old) on the first Sunday of each month.
- ♥ Revd Taiwo has introduced a new **Healing Service**, the first of these will be on Sunday 14th April, 5-6pm at St James.
- ♥ Also the PCC has approved Revd Taiwo's proposal to have **two Holy Communion services** each month at St James.
- ♥ You may have heard some of our congregation talking about the new Parish wide 'Life Groups' - these are an opportunity to meet for fellowship and teaching in an informal setting and have been set up following the recent Alpha course. They are open to everyone across the Parish. If you would like to go to one, for more information speak to Revd. Taiwo.
- ♥ **Postage Stamps** - Don't forget to pop your used postage stamps in the box in the foyer for the RNIB.
- ♥ **Contact** - If you need to contact the clergy, please in the first instance speak to the Parish Office - See contact details below.



Foodbank: Please leave your gifts of food and other items with long use by in the basket in the entrance foyer at Church. Thank you for your continuing support of our foodbank provider (the Well) in these very needy times. **Urgent Update!** The Well foodbank also need our financial support, to not just buy items they need, but to pay rent on their building as well as other expenses, so please consider if you can help with this and give your gift to either Nick or Jessica.

At church we now have a replacement fridge, so the **Fridge/Freezer** which we used to use is now surplus, if you are in need of one, or know someone who is, then please take it. Talk to Jacquie, Jane or Nick for information.



News



Carol has been in touch and would like people to visit her or be in touch. So if you would like to do this (her new home is in Verona Court, close to Holy Trinity, Heath Town), she would love to hear from you. If you would like to contact her, please speak to Jane Gardner or Jacquie who have her details.



You will have noticed that different people have been leading our **time of prayer in our Sunday Services**. Taiwo has asked that members of the congregation lead this part of the service. He has been providing written prayers to use each Sunday, so if you would like to be one of those leading our prayers, please speak to Taiwo, Jacquie or Nick.

Diary Dates



Celebrations: - Birthday - 12th Miriam Tromans. Wedding Anniversaries 2nd John and Jill Redmond, 8th Nick and Jane Gardner - We pray that you will all have blessed birthdays and anniversaries.



♥ As we are now in the season of Lent, the local Churches Together is holding the usual Lent Lunches. These start at 12 noon with a short service, followed by a frugal lunch at about 12:30pm. Please consider supporting these and bring friends as well. The dates for March and venues are as follows:

Saturday 2 nd March	Church of the Epiphany, Lymer Road
Thursday 14 th March	Baptist Church, Winchester Road
Saturday 16 th March	St. Paul's, Pendeford, by Morrisons
Thursday 21 st March	St. James' Church, Taunton Avenue

- ♥ Our church **AGM** will follow our service on the 3rd March, at this we will receive reports from our church and our annual accounts. We will also elect our Churchwardens, PCC and DCC members for the next year, there are a few vacancies, so if you would like to serve your church in this way, please let Jacquie know.
- ♥ Our Parish AGM then follows on Thursday 21st March, 8pm at St Mary's Church Hall.
- ♥ A reminder that also on **Sunday 3rd March**, at St James', at 6pm there is a **Deanery Fellowship HC** service with food. All of us are welcome at this service and some help with the food and refreshments will be needed. We have been asked to provide finger snacks, such as crisps, savoury items, etc. also Samosas. Please speak to Jacquie if you can either provide some of these or contribute towards them. Thank you!
- ♥ Quiz for Saturday, 9th March 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall.
- ♥ **CAMEO**: 2-4pm on 18th March.
- ♥ **3 C's for March**: 2-4pm on 4th, 11th and 25th.
- ♥ The next **City Wide Prayer** event is at St Philips, Penn, Church Road WV3 7EN, Thursday 14th March at 7pm.
- ♥ The next **Men's Breakfast**, St Mary's Hall, 10am Saturday 16th March, Jonah Part III
- ♥ Thursday 28th March there is a **Maundy Thursday service**, 7pm at St Mary's, and **Good Friday 29th March**, reflective service at the Church of the Good Shepherd 2-3pm.
- ♥ Reminder - there will be an **Easter Gathering** for all of the churches in Wolverhampton in Queen's Square on Saturday 30th March, between 1:30 and 3:00 pm.
- ♥ Please also have 13th April in your diaries, **Mission Training with Dan Holland**, 9am - 4:30pm St Mary's Church Hall.

Please Pray



If you would like specific prayer for someone, then please add them to our prayer board in the entrance. At the moment these are some we should be praying for: Doreen Cripps, Carol Griffiths, Alan Redmond, Joe (Donna's dad), Roger (Sandra's cousin), Elizabeth Westwood (Maureen Horton's daughter), Pam (David Newman's mother-in-law), Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Rotas

If you are on cleaning duty, please use the cleaning check list sent to you and displayed in church - **Please do this** from 9:30am onwards on Saturdays, if you want to do this at a different time, please speak to Jacquie to check that the church is free. We could do with additional volunteers to help with the cleaning, if you think this is something you could do, please speak to Jacquie, Jane or Nick, thank you.

Sunday 3rd March - (TO)

Cleaning (Saturday): Richard Mullett
Chairs: Richard Mullett
Duty Team: Richard & Jacquie Mullett
Computer: Jane Gardner
Readers: Jacquie Mullett - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Catherine Tromans - John 2:13-22
Drinks: Jane Jones

Sunday 10th March - HC (TO)

Mothering Sunday

Cleaning (Saturday): Ann-Charlotte Holman
Chairs: Ann-Charlotte Holman
Duty Team: Ian Newman & Ann-Charlotte Holman
Computer: Jacquie Mullett
Readers: Pauline Biddulph - Luke 2:33-35
Ann-Charlotte Holman - Exodus 2:1-10
Drinks: Jean Cook
Flowers: Sheila Turner

Sunday 17th March - (ES)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jane Gardner
Chairs: Nick Gardner
Duty Team: Nick & Jane Gardner
Computer: Chris Astley (Jessica Bate)
Readers: Nick Gardner - Hebrews 5:5-10
Jane Gardner - John 12:20-33
Drinks: Ann-Charlotte Holman

Sunday 24th March - (TO)

Cleaning (Saturday): Jessica Bate
Chairs: Ian Newman
Duty Team: Jacquie Mullett & Ian Newman
Computer: Jane Gardner
Readers: Sheila Turner - Mark 11:1-11
Jacquie Mullett - Mark 15:21-39
Drinks: Jessica Bate
Flowers: Catherine Tromans

Sunday 31st March - (TO)

Easter Sunday (HC)

Cleaning (Saturday): Pukka Braitch
Chairs: Pukka Braitch
Duty Team: Richard Mullett & Nick Gardner
Computer: Jessica Bate
Readers: Mary Widdal- Acts 10:34-43
Catherine McCulloch - Mark 15:21-39
Drinks: Sue Miller



Sunday 7th April

Cleaning (Saturday): Sue Tilley
Chairs: James Hesp
Duty Team: Jane Gardner & Ian Newman
Computer: Richard Mullett (Jacquie Mullett)
Readers: Jane Gardner - TBA
Catherine Tromans - TBA
Drinks: Jane Jones
Flowers: Sue Tilley



Contact details:

Parish Office - 01902 782226

Leadership – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Jacquie Mullett** 07530 798424
- jacquiemullett@msn.com - **Nick Gardner** 07488 389033 - 01902 784713 - n_gardner2@sky.com

For Notices and Rotas – Please contact by phone, text, WhatsApp or email: **Nick Gardner**
(details above) or **Val Redmond** 07528 586067 - alanredmond@hotmail.com

A Church Near You link <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4198/>

Website link <https://www.bushburyparishchurch.co.uk/st-james-church>

Facebook page is - St. James Church Fordhouses