

THE BENEFICE OF LEPTON, EMLEY AND FLOCKTON WITH DENBY GRANGE



Benefice newsletter for the beginning of Lent

Letter from Rev Val:

This year we are again restricted in the way we are able to observe Lent and Easter. I have never subscribed to giving things up for Lent but prefer to take up something instead - yes this gives me more work but generally this is much more positive than giving up something and certainly less miserable. With this in mind, I have decided to offer a Compline service each week at 9pm on Wednesday delivered through our Facebook and also our churches websites in the same way that we do our Sunday morning services. This will commence on 24th February until 24th March.

In addition I will also lead a Lent course, on Zoom, based on the BBC1 programme 'The Repair Shop'. If you would like to join in, please let me know and I can send you the link to Zoom. It will be good to see each other and to join in.

First thing is to watch the programme which is aired on BBC1 at 8pm on Wednesday 17th Feb and we will have some discussions on Sunday 21st February at 6pm. I intend this to be light and give us food for thought. Be prepared to join in.

Rev Val

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Services during February and March

There will be a Sunday morning service at St John's, Lepton, each week. These will alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. See below for details.

Sunday 14 th February	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 17 th February	8 p.m.	BBC1 programme in preparation for Zoom meeting on Sunday
Sunday 21 st February	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Zoom meeting "Sunday at Six"
Wednesday 24 th February	9 p.m.	Compline
Sunday 28 th February	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Zoom meeting "Sunday at Six"
Wednesday 3 rd March	9 p.m.	Compline
Sunday 7 th March	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Zoom meeting "Sunday at Six"
Wednesday 10 th March	9 p.m.	Compline
Sunday 14 th March	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Zoom meeting "Sunday at Six"
Wednesday 17 th March	9 p.m.	Compline
Sunday 21 st March	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.	Holy Communion Zoom meeting "Sunday at Six"
Wednesday 24 th March	9 p.m.	Compline
Sunday 28 th March	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion for Palm Sunday

Online Worship

There will be an online service each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. This can be found on Facebook or via the links on the benefice website or St. John's website. You do not need a Facebook account to access things via these websites.

The webpages are:

Benefice webpage

<http://thebenefice.co.uk/>

St John's webpage

www.stjohnslepton.org/online-church

The Benefice webpage has links to each of the churches' webpages.

As well as the Sunday morning service there are frequent posts of prayers on the Facebook page and our Reader, Jean, often posts a reflection. Molly Mouse came back again last week and made some lovely hugs which were kindly distributed to some people in the village.

Some recent online material you may have missed.



Reflection from Reader; Jean Senior

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it. but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.(John 3: 7-12).

It was Face-time time with our granddaughter!

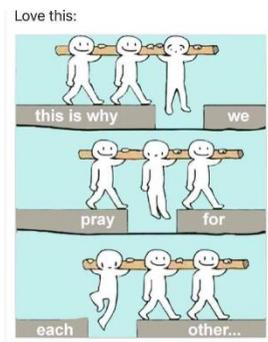
My little granddaughter was looking out of the patio doors at Storm Darcy. The tree branches were swaying in the wind, and the snowflakes swirling and being blown along by it. 'Granny Mim' she said, 'look at the wind!' And I did, of course though what she and I actually saw wasn't 'the wind' but the effect of the wind. The wind in itself is invisible. All we can see- and feel- is what it does!

I was reminded that these are the very simple and yet profound words of Jesus' to Nicodemus. If you want to 'see' the Spirit of God, look at the results. Jesus is driving home his point that you (us- not just poor Nicodemus, who'd rather stuck his neck out!) must be born of the Spirit if we are to enter God's kingdom. Nicodemus was confused by this but Jesus wanted him to understand that this wasn't some complicated piece of mysticism. It was simply the application in the spiritual world of a truth he well knew in the natural world. There are some things, and wind is one of them, you don't have to be able to explain or analyse in order to be deeply affected by them. Don't agonise over the Spirit of God, Jesus says, in effect, just be open to what He does.

Prayers

When Hope is all you have, may you remember that Hope is still enough. When all you can do is trust the grace of God, may you be able to leave your fears in God's hands. When letting go is impossible, may God give you the ability to change your grip. May you trust His timing, even when you don't understand it . (reproduced with permission from Niteblessings)

Sometimes pictures give us prayers as in the one opposite.



Keeping in touch

If you know of anyone who does not have access to internet and has not received the mailing but would like to please let us know via email at benefice@stjohnslepton.org

Items for a benefice newsletter

Please send any items for inclusion in a Benefice newsletter to the email address benefice@stjohnslepton.org. Thank you