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**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - CW edition**



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),  
Cheersley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

**WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY**

**Parish prayer points for March**



Prayer is the foundation of all we do in our daily lives as well as in our church life - after all, a relationship thrives on communication. As we pray throughout March on our own, or in gatherings on Sunday and during the week, can I invite us to pray for these particular people:

In our 3 churches, giving thanks for all who come and clean them, for their hidden act of service. For Alicia Howard, Dorothy Lagden, and Sarah Evans who co-ordinate each of our cleaning teams

In our 3 villages, please pray for everybody who works in our health and social care services. For those who work elsewhere; for our doctors' surgery, dental practice, and care providers; and for the many carers who serve our residents.

**Collect for the First Sunday of Lent**

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**

**Readings for Today:**

**The Old Testament: Genesis 2.15-17 and 3.1-7**



The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### **The Epistle: Romans 5 12-19**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned - sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### **The Gospel: St. Matthew 4.1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes

from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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**

### **Notes for your diary:**

**Benefice Lent Course starting 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> March for six weeks but you are welcome to join in at any stage:**

Ever feel like the Bible is a bizarre collection of obscure laws, far-fetched stories, and incomprehensible prophecies? If so then you're invited to come to a 'crash course' in navigating the more baffling parts of the Bible, using **Krish Kandiah's book, 'Route 66'**.

There's a choice of two times to meet during the week:

- **Thursday evenings 8:00-9:30pm** in Church House, Long Crendon (starting **2<sup>nd</sup> March** for 6 weeks)
- **Friday afternoons 1:15-2:45pm** at Long Meadow, Dark Lane, Chearsley (starting **3<sup>rd</sup> March** for 6 weeks)

If possible, bring your own Bible.

You don't have to come every week, or even buy the book, to benefit from the course. However if you'd like to follow the book's daily Bible studies through Lent then used copies in good condition can be bought online for as little as £3. If you have any questions, including directions to the venues, email [Reverend.Richard.Phillips@gmail.com](mailto:Reverend.Richard.Phillips@gmail.com)

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Nicholas' Nether Winchendon, 9:30-10:30 am. Our prayer focus will be on the three villages and wider issues. All welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

## Services in the United Benefice

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 pm	Benefice Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
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### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The First Sunday of Lent (CW) or the First Sunday in Lent (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The Second Sunday of Lent (CW), or the Second Sunday in Lent (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The Third Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Third Sunday in Lent (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Gordon Kuhrt
10:30 am	Family Service	LC	Richard Phillips

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The Fourth Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Fourth Sunday in Lent (BCP) Mothering Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Steve and Rose Williams
11:00 am	Family Service	NW	Richard Phillips

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Fifth Sunday in Lent (BCP) – Passiontide begins

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on [llm.chearsley@btinternet.com](mailto:llm.chearsley@btinternet.com) Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield