

Ángelos

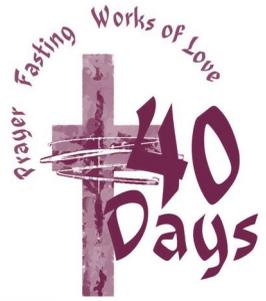
21st February 2021

the 1st Sunday of Lent

Rector: *The Revd Fr Chris Hewitt SCP* 01673 838380

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Serving the churches and villages of the Walesby and Barkwith groups of parishes



Dear Friends

this week a short poem for you to reflect on **Lent**, by **Christina Rossetti**

It is good to be last not first,
Pending the present distress;
It is good to hunger and thirst,
So it be for righteousness.
It is good to spend and be spent
It is good to watch and to pray:
Life and Death make a goodly Lent
So it leads us to Easter Day.

We are more likely to associate Christina Rossetti with Christmas rather than Lent because her poem 'In the Bleak Midwinter' has become one of the best-loved and most popular Christmas carols.

Let us journey together this Lent, with Christ

What's On - Sunday 21st February:

Sunday Service - BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am

Songs of Praise - BBC1 at 1.15pm

(or locally)

Holy Communion at 10.45am - via our website

This pew sheet has been redesigned as a short act of personal worship.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading

Genesis, Chap 9 vv 18-17

9 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Gospel Reading

Mark, Chap 1 vv 9-15

1 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he

saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

A Reflection

by **The Revd Elaine Turner**

There are surely few people who aren't moved by the sight of a rainbow appearing against the dark background of a threatening sky, its light and beauty filling our hearts with joy. Rainbows form when light is reflected and refracted in water droplets and is a sign that the rain is ending, and the light is returning to dispel the darkness of the storm. No wonder rainbows have been used for thousands of years as a sign of hope; a sign that no matter how dark the present may be, that the light will return.

After the great flood, sent by God to wash the earth clean of sin and to begin a new creation, we are told that he used the rainbow as a sign of his covenant with that creation, that never again would he destroy the earth with water. So, for that reason, when we see a rainbow, we are also reminded of God's everlasting love

and mercy towards us.

In our gospel reading we hear, not about waters that bring death and destruction to sinful life, but about water that brings life and forgiveness of sin, the waters of baptism. John calls people to baptism and repentance and as Jesus enters the water Mark describes how the sky is torn open, and God speaks and points us to his son, who will enter into a new covenant with his people, bringing them new life and salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

Then immediately Mark describes how the spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness, where he is tempted by Satan. Mark does not explain in detail what happened during those days, how Jesus battled with Satan, but he surely sees this time of trial as a precursor to the time when Jesus will engage in a final battle with Satan on the cross. A time when Jesus will choose our salvation over his own life, a time when the heavens will again be torn apart as one man's sacrifice of his life will conquer sin and death for all time and will win, for us, eternal life.

Through all our readings today we have the dual themes of sin and water with lots of different images. So, how might these images and ideas help us at the beginning of this Lent, after a year when we may have experienced difficult and dark times?

I encourage you to think first about the rainbow, about how the sunlight shines on the rain drops brings hope that the dark storm is passing; then think about Jesus, the hope and light of the world and what these accounts

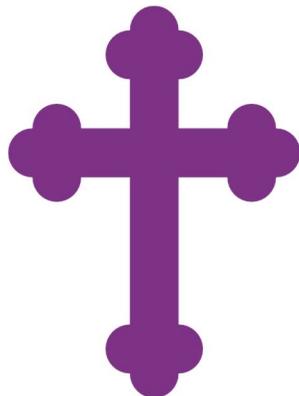
of the early days of his ministry are telling us. What do they lead us to believe about Jesus and who he is?

Then maybe as you reflect on all this you could make a rainbow to put up in your home where you will see it each day and each time you gaze on it thank God for the eternal promise of his mercy and love and of course of the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Let us pray

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.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.

And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever.

Amen.

A Blessing

Go in the name of Jesus,
to follow the way of Jesus, to love
with the love of Jesus and to be
sustained by the peace of Jesus
and the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and holy Spirit
be with us and all whom we love,
this day and for ever. Amen

**We go in peace to love and serve
our Lord. Amen.**

Notices for the benefices of the Walesby and Barkwith Groups:

21st February 2021

Sunday Worship Now Online

**The Churches of the Walesby and
Barkwith Groups are closed for
worship. We expect to re-open in
some limited form, from 21st
March)**

Our Sunday Services are currently
online provision only.

**Every Sunday at 10.45am
A service of Holy Communion**

Weekday Online Services

Morning Prayer

Monday - Saturday) (8.30am)

Compline

A new Compline Service available
each Mon, Wed, and Sat evening

Links for **ALL** online services are
www.walesbychurches.org

Monday Evening Fellowship

The ZOOM room opens 6.45pm for a
short time chat with the service from
7—7.30pm.

LENT 2021

During Lent we will be running 2
course online using ZOOM.

- **LENT in the Wilderness**
Session 2 Monday 22nd Feb 7pm
- **For Such a Time as This**
Session 1 Wed 24th Feb 10.30am

The Zoom links and more
information are available on the
home page of our website.

Pastoral Support

If you are aware of anyone who is
lonely, struggling or feeling isolated
in these difficult days, please let me
know. We are only too happy make
phone calls. **Fr Chris**

Notices for the next pew sheet to Fr Chris by Wed 17th February

Fr Chris will be taking Annual Leave
Monday 22nd—Friday 26 Feb (Inc)

For Urgent Matters Parish Contacts:
Walesby Group - Revd Elaine
Barkwith Group - Revd Annabel