

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is a very special time of year and we want to give you an opportunity to set aside a little time to engage with your faith and with God. You will find several options on this sheet. You may decide to sign up to the Bishops Lenten Challenge (I have!). You may choose to read one of the books highlighted. You may choose to come along to the discussion group at the beginning of Lent with a follow up in Easter Week. You may decide Friday Prayers are your thing or a combination of some of the above. Or perhaps you'll just engage with those few moments of reflection each day. I urge you to make the most of this Lent.

Rev Preb Sharon



Taking care of God's gift

This Lent as a diocese we will be thinking in different ways about what it means to care for the world in which we live. Our care for the environment and for all that God has created is an obligation for us as Christians and part of our response to the gospel.

Reference is sometimes made to the Five Marks of Mission and one aspect of mission is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' What we now know about climate change and the impact we humans make on the world we live in, means that it is imperative that we take this responsibility serious. The Earth is our home. It is beautiful beyond words. It is God's gift to us and so we must take care of it! The Psalmist reminds us that: 'The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.' (Psalm 24:1)

President Barack Obama recently said: "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change ... we must act before it's too late." He was not seeking to be alarmist in saying this, he was reminding us that climate change is already affecting agriculture, water resources, forests, wildlife, and coastal areas and also having a serious detrimental impact on human health.

We do need to be more responsible, more faithful and more diligent in the way we care for God's creation for a number of reasons. Firstly, a clean environment is essential for healthy living. Secondly, as the overall temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans increases so too does the frequency of dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms. We are stewards of what God has given us and we have a responsibility for future generations and we cannot deny that the way we live is stoking up problems for our children, grandchildren and all who follow after us. Biodiversity, the variety of plants, animals, and other living things in our world, is important and we know that human activities are having a negative impact on it. Finally, it matters because the way we treat the environment also mirrors the way we treat each other. Mahatma Gandhi the Indian civil rights activist once said: "What we are doing to the forests of the world is a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."

So, what might it look like to show that we care about the environment? I have found these three simple words helpful as I have thought about this. The three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Those are three words we might think about this Lent.

With warm greetings,

www.bathwells.org.uk/2019/lent-2019-living-well-in-gods-world/

The Right Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Stations of the cross..... Friday Prayers

Each Friday during Lent we shall gather in St John's at 5.30pm for a time of prayer which will focus around the Stations of the Cross. You can see the silver depictions hanging all along the sides of church. Different people will lead these short acts of worship and prayer. Each will last no longer than half an hour. Gathering for prayer together as a community is a good thing to do. The time isn't good for everyone, but we have tried different times over the years and this still feels the best fit for most!



For Reflection

Sundays

Find a quiet moment and be silent for just 5 minutes

Mondays

How does your weekday faith make a difference to what you do?

Tuesdays

Check in with your personal Lenten challenge. How is it going? You can always make a fresh start today

Wednesdays

What one thing would help you in your walk with God?

Thursdays

Who might you help this Lent to draw closer to God?

Fridays

Consider gathering for prayer at 5.30pm – Wherever you are!

Saturdays

Think today of one thing you could change to better care for your environment

The Beatitudes.

The reading for this year's Lent book.

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Matthew 5:3-10 (*Christian Standard Bible*)

Messy Pancakes:

**Tuesday 5th March. 3.45-5pm
Church hall**

Pre-Lent kick off! A fun way for our younger members to think about the season. Pancakes, crafts and games especially for the 3-11 age group and their families!

Books & Apps for Lent

We have selected a book to study over the 40 days of Lent. It will be available at just £2.50 each. Or you can sign up to get the passages delivered to your email inbox <https://www.churchofenland.org/pilgrim>

There will also be an app available soon: Lent and Easter Pilgrim

We shall have two gathering points for those reading this book: Thursday 7th March at 7.45pm and on Thursday 25th April, both at the Vicarage.

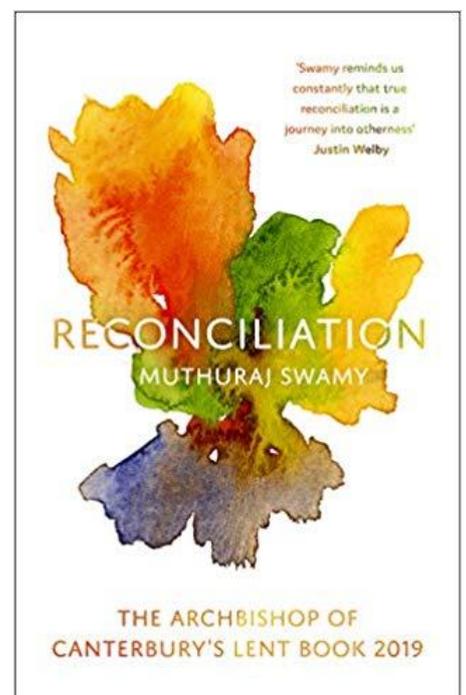
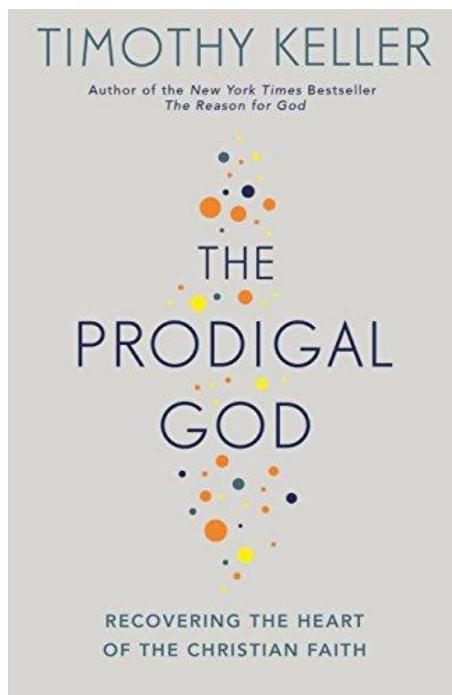
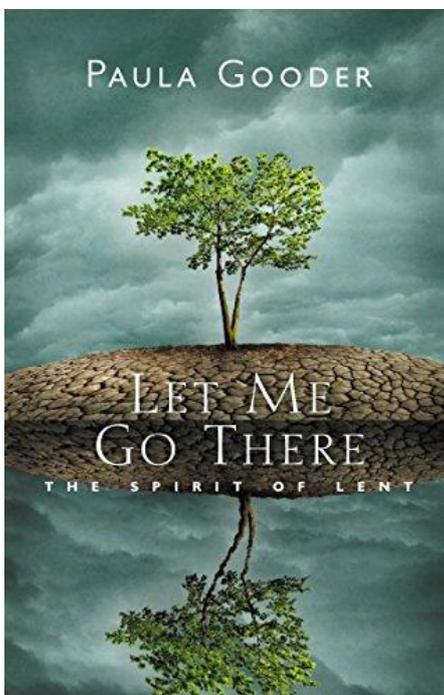
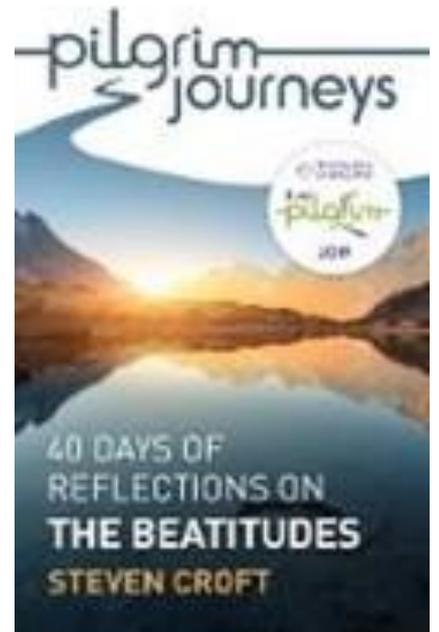
Or you may like to try something a bit more challenging.

The Archbishops Lent Book is described as “a bit heavy” but you may like to get stuck into something this Lent: “Reconciliation” by Muthuraj Swamy

We offer two other books for you to consider:

Paula Gooder: “Let me go there”, offering readings for each day in Lent, which is reviewed as a very good read (£7.29 on Amazon).

Timothy Keller: The Prodigal God (which you can get on Kindle for just £1.99).



Rev Dan & Rev Sharon will be setting aside some time each week to visit you in your own home if you would like a visit. Please find the visit slots in church week by week.

Lent Activities

CALENDAR

(Please see weekly sheet for full church activities)

Contact:

Vicar: Rev'd Preb Sharon Crossman	789290
Training Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch	325194
Churchwarden: Chris Perry	783753
Parish Office	780633

MARCH

Shrove Tuesday

Tues 5th 3.45-5pm "Messy Pancakes" An activity for our young families

Ash Wednesday

Wed 6th 9.30am Said Communion with ashes (in the hall)
7.00pm Communion Service with ashes at West Huntspill
Thurs 7th 7.45pm Lent book group. Vicarage
Fri 8th 5.30pm Friday Prayers Stations of the Cross

Lent 1 Sunday 10th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Every Wednesday throughout Lent 9.30am Said Communion (with short reflection) in the hall
Every Friday throughout Lent 5.30pm Friday Prayers Stations of the Cross in church

Lent 2 Sunday 17th 9am Shorter Communion 3pm Communion and tea (in the hall)

Lent 3 Sunday 24th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion

Mothering Sunday 31st (no 8am service) 9.30am Communion Noon Baptism

Fri 5th April Pre-Easter School Services

Passion Sunday 7th April 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

Sunday 14th April 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion 3pm Prayers on the Knoll
Mon 15th 8.30pm Night Prayer in church
Tues 16th 10am Service in Wells Cathedral (blessing of oils)
8.30pm Night Prayer in church
Wed 17th 9.30am Said Communion in the hall
8.30pm Night Prayer in church

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Passover Meal (Communion) in hall, followed by Vigil in church till 10pm

Good Friday 10am Family Service 2pm Holy Hour with readings, hymns and reflection

Holy Saturday 8pm Lighting of the Easter Fire

Easter Sunday 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion and Easter Egg Hunt 3pm Short communion & tea

Throughout Easter week the Easter Displays will be up and we shall welcome children from Churchfield School throughout the week.