

Bridges Group News

Date: 18th February 2023

Sunday: Lent 1



News from Priors Marston

"During our Communion service, Rev David Herbert used the image of a stained glass window to illustrate the centrality of Jesus. He emphasised how we are to focus only on Him and to listen only to Him.

We sang " Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Be all else but nought to me, save that Thou art".

We can take this with us, as we move into Lent..... and beyond."

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

'Why, what's the matter, that you have such a February face, so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness? (Much ado about nothing). Well recently February has certainly been full of storm and cloudiness, as wild and wet weather has swept across the UK leaving in its wake power lines down, widespread flooding, transport links disrupted and many trees felled. We are somewhat sheltered from the worst of it here inland, but I know many friends back in Cumbria will have experienced the full force of these winter storms. Along with wild weather there seems so much to worry about at the moment with the rising cost of living, and so much conflict and loss of life happening in Ukraine, Gaza and the Middle East. We approach Lent with perhaps a more sombre mood than in some years, but actually we don't have to regard Lent as a time to be depressed or downhearted. 1500 years ago a monk called Benedict of Nursia encouraged his brothers to simply be more aware of Gods presence in their lives. The traditional disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting and giving, are keys he said, not only to the joy of Lent, but to the joy of life itself, lived in balance with a compassionate heart continually aware of the presence of God in all things. May we all discover afresh that joy despite all the seeming turmoil around us.

Prayer

Loving Lord, as we face worrying times help us to remember that you are ultimately in charge, and that nothing can separate us from your love. May we recognise your presence at work in us and around us, and as we do so, allow your joy to envelop us, knowing that 'the joy of the Lord is my strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow'.

Looking ahead...

- Lent bible course, every Wed evening, details from Margaret Clarke.
- Napton PCC 19th February at 7pm
- PSOs Meeting 4th March at 7.30pm

Services this Sunday: 18th February Lent 1	Services next Sunday: 25th February Lent 2
9.00am Holy Communion BCP at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am Holy Communion, CW at Napton Bible readings for the week are: 1 Peter 3:18-end, Mark 1:9-15	9.00am Holy ommunion BCP at Lower Shuckburgh 10.30am Morning Worship at Stockton 10.30am Morning Worship at Wormleighton 5.00pm Evensong at Napton "4 th Sunday" at Priors Marston

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines)

Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Priors Hardwick.