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Sunday 25th February 2018

We Welcome You!

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Lent

Today's readings:

**Genesis 17.1 - 7, 15 - 16 Psalm 22.23 - end Romans 4.13 - end
Mark 8.31 - end**

Collect for Today:

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mysteries of Christ's sufferings, and by following his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



This is a communion service where we share bread and wine together. Everyone is welcome to receive but if you would rather not then please come forward for a blessing instead. Children who have been baptised are also able to receive from the age of four. The bread we use is baked by hand and contains gluten, wheat and yeast. If you need rice cake please tell one of the people who welcomed you.



If you have come here with needs or anxieties and you would like someone to pray with you, for yourself or for someone else, there will be someone by the war memorial in church during communion who will be very happy to listen and pray. And if you would like us all to pray for someone in the intercessions, just add the name in the book on the wooden lectern by the glass doors.

LENT 2018 - Our Lent course this year will centre around the film **Les Miserables**. Each week there will be clips to watch and then discussion about some of the themes within the film. As in previous years the sessions will take place on **Tuesday afternoons and evenings during Lent** thus enabling people to choose accordingly which session you would like to attend. The sessions will therefore run on **Tuesday, 27th February, 6th March, 13th March and 20th March**. Sessions begin at **3pm and finish at 4.30pm and 7.30pm and finish at 9pm**. To finish we will watch the whole film on **Tuesday 27th March at 2pm and 7pm**. Lent reflections will take place at **4.30pm each Sunday**.

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES - Please see the separate leaflet for Lent group timings and services as well as services during Holy Week and Easter.

REAL EASTER EGG -Today is the last day for signing up for the **Real Easter egg** - please do so on the sheet in the hall

CHRISTIAN AID'S SOUTH WEST EVENT - Monday 26th February at 4pm.

Come for tea and cake and listen to **Victoria Jean Louis, Christian Aid's Emergency Programme Officer in Haiti**; she will share her experiences of how your donations can help to build houses that weather the storms. Many thanks **Maria**

FITNESS CLASS A new **Fitness class** is starting up in the church hall on **Thursday 1st March at 7pm**. The class will last 45 minutes and will cost £4 per person. Everyone of **any ability is welcome** and the class will cater for all with **variations of things to do**.

CHURCH CLEANING Please put a note in your diary, cleaning times are: **Saturday 14th April 9am-11am**
Saturday 7th July 9am-11am

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT - 26TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH -for in Fairtrade is a global movement with a strong and active presence in the UK, represented by the Fairtrade Foundation. It supports small scale farmers and



workers who are marginalised from trade in a variety of ways and carefully monitor the impact of Fairtrade on these communities. There are over 1.65 million farmers and workers in 1,226 producer organisations across the Fairtrade system.

This year, the theme of Fairtrade Fortnight is "Come on in to Fairtrade" and meet your neighbours – the farmers who grow and produce the food we eat each day. For churches, this theme gives the opportunity to celebrate God's welcome for all, and helps us consider how as Christians we can be good neighbours to others.

The calls to love our neighbour and to love God sit in profound relationship at the heart of both the Old and New Testament. We live in very close relationship to millions of farmers and workers who live in developing countries all around the

world – farmers who are often very poor – they grow the food on which we depend, and they depend on the income from trading with us. But many live in poverty, struggle to provide for their families, or experience serious human rights abuses. They are our neighbours, our sisters and our brothers, equally loved by God. How can we all be better neighbours?

PARISH AWAY DAY - a date for the diary - **Saturday 5th May** to consider **Personality and Prayer in preparation for Thy Kingdom Come** which is a national initiative encouraging us all to sign up to pray more consciously between Ascension Day on Thursday 10th May and Pentecost on Sunday 20th May. More details nearer the time but please put the date in your diaries now.

ELECTORAL ROLL FORMS - it is that time of year again when those who are **new to the congregation** or not already included on the electoral roll need to fill in a form so that we can include you. Being part of the electoral roll just means that you are counted in our official figures as being part of the worshipping community at St Paul and St Stephen's and if you are listed you can volunteer for positions such as PCC members. If you would like any further information please talk to Rev Ruth. The forms can be found on the wooden table by the door.

PCC NOMINATIONS - there are also nomination forms for anyone who might like to serve on the PCC. The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** work **alongside the Vicar** to help run the life of the church and it is always great to have a mix of experience and fresh blood. Again if you would like to know more please speak with Rev Ruth.

CHURCH FAMILY DATES

Happy Birthday to Helen Morgan and Royse Murphy (Saturday) and Blessings for the Yearsmind of Connie Hems, Sue Hendry, Jessie Lee and Fanny Hannis (Wednesday), Ernie Todd and Audrey Couston (Thursday) and Christine Ferguson (Saturday).

Duties today 25/02/2018: 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT **Reader**, Bernard
Prayer: Hannah, **Sidesperson**: Bernard and Willie, **Praying Together**: Hannah
Chalice: Jan and Maria **Cross**: Kevin, **Verger**: Pam, **OHP**: Lynda
Coffee: Jackie and family

Duties next week 4/03/2018: 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

Reader: Ruth P, **Prayer**: Maria, **Sidesperson**: Lillian and Jane, **Praying Together**: Ruth P
Chalice: Dim and Pam **Cross**: Dim, **Verger**: Jackie, **OHP**: Lynda
Coffee: Julie and friends

Readings Next Week: 4/03/18

Exodus 20.1 - 17

Psalm 19
John 2.13 - 22

1 Corinthians 1.18 - 25

Next Week

Morning Prayer: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8.30 am

Sunday 25th 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.00am 10.00am 4.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Lent reflection
Monday 26th Fairtrade Fortnight starts	4.00pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	Christian Aid's Haiti talk Brownies Linden Community Singers
Tuesday 27th	10.00am 1.00pm - 2.30pm 3.00pm 7.30pm	Tiny Tots Little Angels Lent Study Lent Study
Wednesday 28th	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday March 1st	10.00am 10.45am	Holy Communion Coffee and Company
Friday 2nd	2.15pm	Young at Heart
Saturday 3rd	1.00pm - 4.00pm	Gloucester Child Care Centre
Sunday 4th 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT	8.00 am 10.00am 4.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Lent reflection

Contact details: Vicar: Rev Ruth Fitter 500537 or 07553 758063
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