

SUNDAY 16 March – Lent 2

8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10am Experience and Explore
6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

COLLECT

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

Amen.

READINGS (*in pew bibles*)

Philippians 3:17 - 14.1, p. 212

John 4: 1-30; 39-42, pp. 101-102

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

"By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." *Genesis 3:19*

Amen.

Let us pray this week for all who struggle to cater for their basic needs, both in this country and in other nations. We also pray for people finding their work particularly arduous.

Lord, you bless us and care for our needs each day. Help us to grow in faith and trust in your gracious provision, for ourselves and those we pray for. Inspire us to serve selflessly and to give generously. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEXT WEEK

8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion with Junior Church

CONTACTS

CHURCH WEBSITE www.trumpington.church

Vicar – Revd Mandy Maxwell 01223 845047

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Churchwardens

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Parish Safeguarding Officer – Sheila Betts 07889 706625

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CHURCH OFFICE – OPENING TIMES

9am-1pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Emma's email address is: admin@trumpington.church

If you want to put a note in the pewsheets, please contact Emma in the office, no later than 9am Wednesday if the note is intended for the forthcoming Sunday. Thank you.

CHURCH NOTICES

GIVING

If you would like to make a donation in support of the life and ministry of our church, you can:

- Leave a cash donation in the plate provided
- Make a contactless donation using the GoodBox
- Use a yellow envelope. If you pay tax we can claim the Gift Aid, but only if you fill out your details.
- Please speak to Edmund about making a regular electronic gift and the best way to do this.

Everything helps – thank you!

DEADLINE FOR APCM REPORTS

If you are one of the people or groups who submit a report for the Annual Parish General Meeting, please note the submission deadline of **Friday 21 March**. Email reminders are in progress.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year we have to draw up a completely new church electoral roll. Even if your name is already on the roll, you need to fill in a new form to be included on the new one.

All baptised members of the congregation over the age of 16 are invited to apply to join the roll. Application forms are available in church on the Churchwardens' pew. Please post completed forms through the Bakehouse letterbox or give to one of the Churchwardens.

Anyone whose name has been on the electoral roll for a minimum of 6 months can stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which, together with the Vicar and Churchwardens, makes decisions about how the church is run. If you are interested in joining the PCC, but have not been on the electoral roll for long enough, it may be possible to become a co-opted member. Please speak to the Vicar or Churchwardens if you are interested in joining the PCC.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday 22 March 10am-12.30pm

If you would like to help with general churchyard maintenance please come along with appropriate clothes, footwear and gloves. There are lots of jobs to do. Any assistance much appreciated – coffee and refreshments provided mid-morning!

BOOK GROUP

2025 is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth.

The Book Group is reading her final completed novel, *Persuasion*, to discuss when we meet again on

Thursday 3 April. All welcome – no invitation needed!

For more information please email:

bookgroup@trumpington.church

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all those who made cakes, cookies, scones, sausage rolls etc for the refreshments stall at the Bakehouse for the Half Marathon last Sunday, to those who came to help on the stall and also those who came to show their support for the valiant runners.

The power of belief

Heather Smith *reflects on* Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Abram had not exactly covered himself with glory since God set him on his path to the land that God planned to give him. After arriving in Canaan with his nephew Lot, a famine sent him to Egypt in search of food and, afraid for his own safety, he said that his wife Sarai was his sister but neglected to mention that she was also his wife. Poor Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's house, but when God sent plagues Pharaoh realised something was not quite right. On the other hand, Abram bravely rescued Lot when he had been captured by enemies and stuck scrupulously to a promise not to take any goods from the King of Sodom. In today's reading, God makes a covenant with Abram. Recognising that Abram is, like all of us, neither all good nor all bad, God gives Abram the chance to believe, and when he does, it tips the balance.

It seems odd that just believing counted as being righteous, no matter what Abram had done in the past, or would do in the future. But believing God is the key to right behaviour. Abram did not always get it right even after this hugely significant commitment of God's, and neither do we. But believing works deep inside us, working its change, slowly but surely making us the people that God planned. 🍵



God, whose grace is eternal, plant within us a deep seed of belief that sustains and changes us as we journey with you. Amen.

The ordination of women

Part 2 – “not in the Bible”

by Heather Cooke

Ten years ago, something controversial happened, over twenty years after the foundations had been laid. So divisive was the consecration of Libby Lane as the first woman bishop in the Church of England, that a protester interrupted the service in York Minster, shouting “Not in the Bible!” One of the first women priests consecrated in 1994, she became suffragan Bishop of Stockport at that service in 2015, then diocesan Bishop of Derby four years later.

The subject of women priests and bishops has always been controversial, and even today a

minority of Anglicans share the views of that lone protester.

It's true that no women bishops are mentioned in the Bible. Indeed, the only possible reference to bishops at all is in 1 Timothy 3:2, depending how it's translated. Yet in just over thirty years of women priests, ten for women bishops, these servants of Christ and their communities have surely proved their worth.

Heather was ordained deacon in 1999 and priest in 2000, both at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk. She is now “retired” but takes one service a month, in between attending heavy-metal gigs. 🍵

World Poetry Day

by Caroline Hodgson

In recent issues of *Sunday Link* we've been hearing about “Poetry and Faith”. So it's timely that this coming Friday is World Poetry Day (www.unesco.org/en/days/poetry). The website for this UNESCO initiative makes a bold assertion: “In every culture and on every continent – poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for dialogue and peace.”

With that in mind, during the coming weeks of Lent why not set aside some time to read or write poetry? You might decide to write a poetic reflection after prayer, or when you've read the Gospel reading set for that day. Or you could take a subject such as “faith”, “Jesus”, or “peace”. Start with a blank page, set a timer for five minutes (you'll be surprised how long that seems!) and write continuously, without thinking too much about it. You can always tear it up or shred it afterwards, but you might be surprised at the results. 🍵

“During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.”

Pope Francis