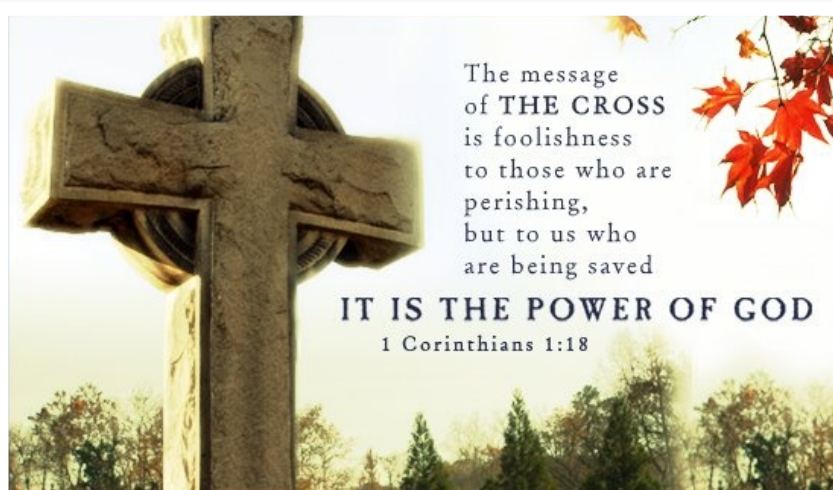


The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Notes!*



Bible Readings

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written:

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22** Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

THIS WEEK



Ice Cream
Salt 'n' Vinegar?



Exposé
The Final Reveal



Lent Course
Shoes 'n' Showers



Thursday 5.00pm
please

John 2:13-22

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. **15** So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. **16** To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' **17** His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

18 The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

19 Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

20 They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' **21** But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

A Reflection by Neil

Dr Seuss

This week, particularly in America, people remember Dr Seuss (real name Theodor Geisel) as it would have been his birthday on the 2nd March.

However, the publishers also announced on his birthday this week that that they would no longer be publishing 6 of his books. This was because they felt the books portrayed people in ways that were hurtful and wrong.

Personally, I was never a real fan of the books, but I do remember The Cat in the Hat, and Green Eggs and Ham.

The latter begins with the words, *"Do you like green eggs and ham?"*

And the response from the character is *"I do not like green eggs and ham."*

Green eggs! That's just wrong!!



WEEKLY PRAYER

Eternal God, give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Weird Food Combinations

Having read the news article, and remembering Green Eggs and Ham, I began thinking of weird combinations of food that I've come across.

- Ground Pepper on Strawberries
- Peanut butter and cheese
- Salted chocolate caramel
- Christmas cake and cheese
- Brie and jam sandwich
- Salt and Vinegar ice cream



Actually They're Good

Going back to the book for a moment. After 50 pages of total disgust we find out that the gentleman discovers he actually likes green eggs and ham!

(If you want the recipe then Nigella has one and here is the link <https://www.nigella.com/recipes/green-eggs-and-ham>)

From personal experience I can also tell you that:

- Ground pepper on strawberries really enhances the flavour
- Peanut butter and cheese is gorgeous
- Salted chocolate caramel - might be something for your fish 'n' chips, but salted chocolate caramel is really nice.
- Christmas cake and cheese - before moving to Yorkshire I'd never heard of it - It sounded bonkers, but I love it!
- Brie and jam sandwich...hmm on a crusty piece of bread. We have Bacon, brie and cranberry's - well take out the bacon, it's the same!
- And my personal favourite - salt and vinegar ice cream. Again, sounds like a fish 'n' chip thing, but I tried it for a dare on holiday, it sounds gross, but it tastes so so good, and now I ask for it!

Why am I sharing this? Because what seems like foolishness is actually filled with wisdom!

1 Corinthians 1:20-25

20 So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debaters of this world's great affairs? God has made them all look foolish and shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense.

21 For God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message, which the world calls foolish and silly. **22** It seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven as proof that what is preached is true; and it is foolish to the Gentiles because they believe only what agrees with their philosophy and seems wise to them. **23** So when we preach about Christ dying to save them, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. **24** But God has opened the eyes of those called to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, to see that Christ is the mighty power of God to save them; Christ himself is the center of God's wise plan for their salvation. **25** This so-called "foolish" plan of God is far wiser than the wisest plan of the wisest man, and God in his weakness—Christ dying on the cross—is far stronger than any man.

The Living Bible

The World Today

The world today is very quick to view the Christian message as foolishness.

- We're called to submit to God, and yet the world claims there is no God.
- We are called to love our neighbour, and yet our post-modern world says that we should love ourselves.

The Gospel tells us that God in flesh died so that we might have life. What foolishness!

But, God is wiser and more powerful than anything we can imagine, and we know that he loved his children so much that he did everything necessary to reconcile us to him.

I'll take Salt and Vinegar ice cream every time and God's foolishness above my wisdom, any day!

Prayer & Prose

Jesus

If I could package faith into one parcel
And collect all hope into a single can -
If I could roll all love into one heart-ball
And commoditise it in a living man
I'd already have a fully detailed label
Prepared before the world itself began -
And it would have one name -
And that name - JESUS -
At the centre of God's universal plan
To take the world along the course
God's surge of love provoked
Till wholeness flows through everything
With God's Spirit of life unyoked.
by Sam Doubtfire

Six short prayers for the Lent

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**

Call to action

The Israelite prophet Micah said:
"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion
that we cannot remain silent,
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.
As your grace fills our hearts
so may we be stirred into action
to demonstrate your love for all the world
and for all creatures that live and move on this earth. **Amen.**



Here are some resources that might help us to spend more time with God over Lent. If you have any that you would like to share please let us know and we will update the list.

Social Media

- Sheffield Diocesan Prayer Community, Facebook, Monday-Friday 7:30-8.00am, Saturday 8.00-8:30am
- Lou Fellingham, Come and Sing, Facebook and YouTube, Wednesday 8:30-9.00am
- Lou Fellingham, Coffee Morning, Facebook and YouTube, Saturday 9.30-11.00am

Online

- Finningley & Auckley Lent Course. 7.00pm Tuesdays during Lent
- Pete Greig - Looking at Prayer on YouTube

Apps (for phones or tablets/iPads)

- Lectio 365 - daily devotional
- Bible app - verse of the day and themed Bible plans
- Bible in one Year

Books

- The Bible from Scratch by Simon Jenkins
- Soul Fuel, A Daily Devotional by Bear Grylls
- Soul Fuel for Young Explorers by Bear Grylls (children and young peoples version)
- How to Pray by Pete Greig
- Bible in a Year

Radio

- Premier Christian Radio

Worship Music (Contemporary)

Lyric videos available on Youtube

- Hillsong
- Elevation Worship
- Cory Asbury
- Soul Survivor
- Phil Wickham



IN DEPTH

In the last of our series Rev Carol Lee shares with us.

What was your least favourite food as a child?

Liver and I still don't eat it.

What is the worst job you have had?

As a pre-nursing student I had a placement which involved delivering post around the hospital

If you were an animal what would you be ?

Probably a giant panda, spending too much time eating and not getting much exercise. What I would like to be is a cat, choose where I want to live and who with, regular meals supplied, periods of playing and lots of naps.

Tell us something we don't know about you?

I have done the Great North Swim twice. This is a mile in lake Windermere, the first time the water was very calm, the 2nd time it was described as being like trying to swim in a washing machine. Oh and I can wiggle my ears!

Whats the most exciting thing you have done?

Being ordained, and swimming with dolphins in New Zealand. It was freezing and had we known before hand how deep the ocean was where we were swimming I don't think we would have done it!

If you performed in the circus, what would you be?

I thought I would ask the opinion of others about this. Ring Master according to my husband Lion Tamer, according to my mum ???!!!

Wardrobe Woes

Jenny Webb tells us: "I was going through my wardrobe the other day and I found something that still fitted me after 25 years! I was so excited I went to tell Barrie. He pointed out it was a scarf!"

Spirit Guest

When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party (pre-COVID) and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her 'a spirit guest', which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her 'a spirit guest.'

I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant 'asparagus'.

Church Glossary

NOTICE SHEET: Your receipt for attending the service.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke!

JUSTICE: When your children have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Anglicans can recognise besides gyros and baklava. (it means Lord have mercy)

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service – led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the carpark.

RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important – and oldest – Top Ten list.

SIDESPEOPLE: The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

Centenary Project Youth Worker Newsletter

Hello!

It's March, yay, and if you go by the meteorological calendar then it's officially spring... as I write this we are one week on from the roadmap and there is one week left before children and young people head back to school and college, it seems like we can look ahead to better days for definite. I'm currently 27 weeks pregnant, which is flying by, and feel cautiously optimistic that Harry will be born in to more normal times.

The roadmap of course changes things for youth and family work, from the 29th of March groups of up to 15 can take place outside, from the 12th of April groups of 15 indoors and from the 21st of June no restrictions, of course subject to the dates changing. It looks like Cafe 3:30 may be able to return probably in September, and we can look at what we can offer for CATALYST, of course my maternity leave slightly impacts all these plans.

In February I joined a small focus group led by the Church of England National Youth Evangelism Officer to look at youth work post covid and how the Church of England can better support and resource youth workers across the country; I'm very blessed in that much of what they were discussing I receive from being part of the Centenary Project.

This Saturday I will be 'attending' the Diocese children, youth and family workers conference, Joined Up, there are over 20 workshops on offer and some brilliant keynote speakers so I'm sure it'll be a fantastic, equipping, day which I'm looking forward to.

Also this week I begin my training on 'Breaking County Lines' learning more about how to prevent vulnerable young people becoming victims of trafficking for the purpose of moving drugs which takes place over 3 Thursday evenings. It is so important that I keep up with latest research, guidance and training so I am best equipped to support the young people I work with and it is fantastic that this is available online during this time.



Prayer Points

- For children and young people as they return to school and college
- For all those who work in schools and colleges, particularly ahead of the full reopening
- For those involved in providing online training, particularly the Joined Up Conference and Breaking Country Lines training
- For charities providing support to children and young people
- For all young adults, for whom it will be difficult to find employment

CATALYST Youth Group

Fortnightly Outreach Group

We are continuing to meet online, beginning with catching up with the young people, sharing a short reflection then some kind of game, in February we played Among Us and the Scavenger Hunt that I mistakenly told you about last month. 9 different young people joined us for CATALYST online in February, hugely down on who would be there in person but to maintain relationships we continue to send half termly postcards and birthday cards.

Cafe 3:30

Monthly Family Cafe Style Church

The February packs were delivered to 25 families, 39 children, another new family joined the Cafe 3:30 gang and is hoping to join us in person when we resume. Delivering packs allows a great opportunity to catch up with families as we drop the packs off, there were some very excited children ready to go back to school.

This month's packs were themed on Daniel and the Lion's Den. They contained two craft activities - a lion headband and a lion paper plate face, the usual activity sheets, a bit about the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den and a prayer activity to do as a family.

Next month's packs will go out at the end of March and will be Easter themed.

With love and blessings,

Hannah Robinson

Youth & Family Worker



hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk



07875500555



@YouthWorkerHannah

Lent Course Week 2

For the second week of the Lent Course we looked at how shoes, showers and baths can help us focus on our journey of faith, through lent and beyond. Discussions were based on the book 'At Home in Lent' by Gordon Giles.



How many pairs of shoes do you have? What do your shoes say to you about your journey and the journeys of others? Shoes can be seen as objects of hope, speaking to us of journeys made and those yet to be travelled. These pictures don't initially seem to be pictures of hope at all. The first is from Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem. It shows a pile of leather shoes, 'just a few of the millions, worn by those entering the gas chambers. Shoes carefully put down by those who either thought they were going for a shower, or those who knew they were not'.



The second is a picture of a memorial along the side of the Danube in Budapest. Here the Jews were asked to take off their shoes before being shot and falling into the river. The shoes are cast in iron as a lasting memorial. These shoes say to us 'do not walk this way, do not take this path of hate and horror'. We continue to walk on, the human spirit keeps going, we continue to walk in the light and hope of Christ.

In these verses Paul encourages Timothy to keep journeying in faith, as he himself has done. We can't walk in anyone else's shoes, others can buy us a pair of shoes, or give us a map to follow, but we have to walk the path ourselves. Next time you pick up a pair of shoes, think about how far they will travel and why.

At the end of our journey we will appear before God with bare soles and bare souls. Standing before the burning bush Moses was told to remove his shoes as he was standing on holy ground. Have you ever tried praying with bare feet, connected to the earth that God has created?

Do you shower every day? Do you pray every day? Is doing either necessary or helpful? Do you at least owe it to others to do so? Is cleanliness next to godliness? This is not from the Bible, but is an old proverb written by Sir Frances Bacon. Do you like to bathe in faith, or have a quick shower?

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only me but also to all who have longed for his appearing

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Shower, o heavens from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness: Let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also: I the Lord have created it.

Isaiah 45:8

The main purpose of a shower is the efficient and effective cleaning of our bodies, showers can also wake us up. In prayer we lift our faces upwards to God, too. See and be seen by God. As the living waters pour down, we are bathed in righteousness and love. We can step out of the shower into the new day, awake, cleansed, renewed and ready to welcome all the Lord send.

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and He went to the Pharisees house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisees house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind Him at His feet, weeping, and began to bathe His feet and then to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'if this man were a prophet, He would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching Him- that she is a sinner'....then turning towards the woman (Jesus) said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love.

Luke 7 :36-39, 44-47.

Or do you prefer to bathe? Jesus would not have been familiar with Roman baths, bathing in that way was for the rich. For others the focus was washing their hands, face and feet. The washing of the feet of guests was standard practice, as feet were dirty from wearing open sandals. Feet were to be washed and maybe oils applied, there was an element of pampering, making the guest feel good. This would be the role of a servant, it was a lowly role. Remember in the upper room it was Jesus who did this for his disciples.

Baths are more leisurely than showers, and often give an opportunity for 'me time', could it become 'we time', a place of retreat from our busy lives, a time to reflect and pray. Church on a Sunday could be seen as bathing, everyday prayer can be seen as a 5 minute shower. There is a place for both.

A Prayer

Christ Jesus, you are the living water by which we are all cleansed and refreshed. Pour down your love from above, that we may be renewed in your work and prayer this and every day. Amen.

Father God, bathe me in the warm waters of mercy, that I may be cleansed from my sin and soaked in your love. Amen.

Next Week

We have chosen to look at kettles, electricity and spectacles next week. We would love you to join us as we explore and learn together. There will be a session on the Tuesday of Holy Week.



Margaret and David would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, cards, messages and flowers we have received over the last couple of weeks.

It has been a great comfort to us to have the love and support from you all.

It's a privilege to be part of our church community.

Again many many thanks.

Margaret and David xxx

The recycled bishop

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed – and then re-consecrated!

It all began about the middle of the 7th century, when Oswiu, King of Northumbria, made Chad the bishop of the Northumbrian see. But due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later.

Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. But then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. So, Theodore re-consecrated him – to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success – again.

When Chad died in about 672AD, he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century, and believed to be Chad's, are in the R.C. cathedral in Birmingham.

Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed.

Money Matters

We are so thankful to everyone who has continued to give generously during lockdown. Whilst both our churches have taken some kind of financial hit during the lockdown, it hasn't been as severe as some.

Of course, heating, lighting and water costs, along with clergy/CP worker expenses have come down, postage, photocopying and resources for the Cafe 3.30 packs each month have seen a big increase. At the same time income from weddings, baptisms and church funerals have dropped significantly, and of course we've not been able to do any fundraising, which both parishes rely upon.

The Diocese has taken a large hit as many churches have struggled to pay parish share and cover the ongoing bills, leaving a deficit of 17% in the budget this year. I pray that both our parishes can meet our share this year.

I'm not asking you to give more, although it would be very welcome! Instead, could I echo the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God bless. Neil

Parish Giving is now online.

Thank you to all at Finningley who donate to the church through the Parish Giving scheme. The scheme has now gone fully online from the 1st March 2021.

If you are currently donating through this scheme then you do not need to do anything, your donations will continue as before. If you wish you can access your own Parish Giving account via the website or you can set up a new donation from here now.

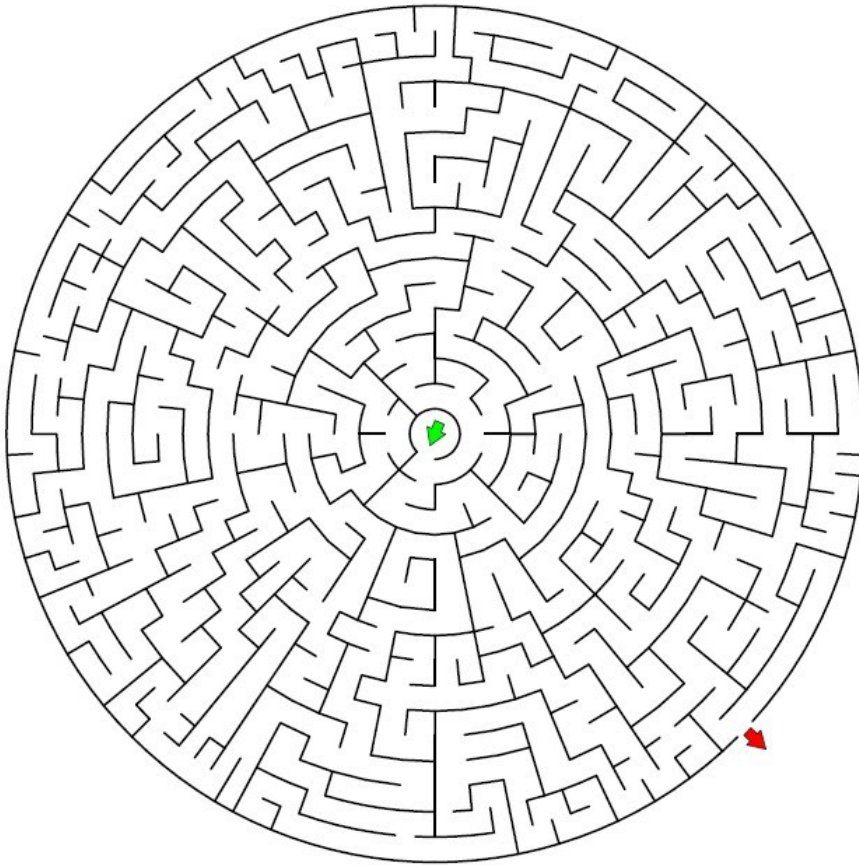
The scheme is working really well for our church with a considerable number now taking advantage of the scheme. Best of all - its FREE (my favourite price).

Please take time to have a look (if you are so minded). Use 'Parish Giving' in your search engine and you should find it.

Any questions please give me a call.

David Liddle
01302 864362





Days off/Rest Days

We have been asked if Carol has a day off. Yes, Carol does, and will be taking Monday as a day when Neil doesn't bother her! Whilst, Neil is currently having Fridays as his time off. Hope that helps

Live Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship. If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk or 07875 500555.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

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[@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about; I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.

- St David

For daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises. But I fear nothing, because of the promises of Heaven; for I have cast myself into the hands of Almighty God, who reigns everywhere. As the prophet says: 'Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you.'

- St Patrick

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore.

- St Patrick