

# Monthly Matters

March 2017

The first day of March 2017 is St David's day, St David is the patron saint of Wales and the first day of March is a day of celebration of both St David's life and of the Welsh culture in Wales and in countries such as Canada and the United States. Many people attend special church services, parades, choral recitals or Welsh literature readings. Schools plan celebrations, often involving choirs, on the day. Many people will



wear a daffodil, or daffodil brooch in celebration of this day. However, this year the first of March is also Ash Wednesday, the day that heralds the beginning of Lent, a day of fasting and preparing for the Lenten journey of 40 days, so with this in mind, it will be interesting to

see how these events are observed!

When it comes to Lent, people often don't look forward to this season. Childhood memories of giving up chocolate and sweets or having to take on extra jobs at home, may come immediately to mind. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.

Lent is much more than fasting or giving up. Lent can be a time when we can use the 40 days to take a good look at our lives, a time to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for our lives. Many of us will find that we have wandered from God's path, and so Lent can be when we can take time to return to God with our whole heart.

A Lent study course will run throughout Lent at St James church on Wednesday evenings based on resource from 'Embrace the Middle East'. This course consists of six sessions which all include Bible study, prayer, information, 'Life at the margins' monologues and actions. Members of the church community are also contributing individual 'thoughts for the day' to go on our Website and Facebook page for each day of Lent. There are also lots of books and resources around for people to help with a Lenten practice.

However, Lenten disciplines are not an end unto

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## March services

### Wednesday 1st Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion or alternative

7.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 5th

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong @ Burton Hastings

### Wednesday 8th

10.00am Holy Communion or alternative

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Holy Communion @ Burton Hastings

10.00am All age worship/Café Church

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Holy Communion or alternative

### Sunday 19th

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong @ Burton Hastings

### Wednesday 22nd

10.00am Holy Communion

### Sunday 26th Mothering Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion @ Burton Hastings

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

### Wednesday 29th

10.00am Holy Communion or alternative

Children's Activities will take place on Sunday 5th, 12th (Café Church), 19th and 26th March (Mothering Sunday)



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themselves. They are simply aids in becoming as open as possible for taking the scarred, outstretched hand of Jesus on Easter morning - for allowing his victorious love to shine on the shadows of all the broken places in our lives.

I pray that you will travel well through this Lent season whatever you chose to do. May you draw closer to God's love and grace, and may the light of Christ guide and strengthen you. Amen

Rev Liz

**Lent group**—Starts Wednesday 8th March 7.30pm in church " *Moving to the Margins* "

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**10 - 12.30**



**COFFEE MORNING**



Our coffee mornings

continue to be popular, so much so we ran out of cakes to cut up last time. Also we were due to holiday and sickness short of help meaning we were all multi tasking. We are always grateful for your donations of cake, and also help. We seem to have the same people providing and helping each month. We would love more people to be involved. There is always a sign up sheet for the next couple of months at the back of church. If you could help occasionally even just for an hour. We would very much appreciate it.

**Electoral Roll**—This year the roll needs to be completely revised, therefore all current members will need to complete a new form by 31st March

We are looking for people to join the PCC (Parochial Church Council) at St James from the 30th April. If you are interested in joining the PCC and would like to know a little bit more then please speak to either Liz or the Church Wardens



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**Rev Liz's Commissioning as Curate in Charge will take place at St James on Thursday 6th April**



### The Parish Registers

**Remembered in Prayer.** We have a prayer space in church where names can be added and candles lit and where there are words of help and encouragement. If you have someone you would like named in prayers during services please let one of the clergy know.

During February we welcomed into the church via Baptism:

*Ashton Jack O'Shea, Verity Maisie Barratt, James Alexander Yeo and Freddie Robert James Orton*



Funerals took place for:  
*David Masson, Margaret Pratt*



Also *Lucy Coulson and Jonathan Williams* were joined together in Holy Matrimony, we pray for them as they start their married life together,

### CONTACT US

**Baptism & Wedding enquiries should be made in Church on any Saturday morning 10.00am – 12noon**

During the interregnum contact can be made on 07757 025880 or [saintjames16@icloud.com](mailto:saintjames16@icloud.com).

**Parish Priest**

Vacancy

**Assistant Curate**

Reverend Liz Jones

Tel: 07891 012243 email: [Elizabeth.Jones2@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Jones2@uhcw.nhs.uk)



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