

Team Newsletter

for March 2019



**He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan;**

**and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.**

***Mark 1.13***



Dear friends in Christ

Lent this year begins on Wednesday 6th March, Ash Wednesday. In this Team Newsletter you will find details of the services across the three churches of our team during March along with details of our Lent Course, which this year focuses on the film, The Greatest Showman. The full film will be shown on Friday 1st March at St George’s, Tyldesley.

Lent like Advent is a penitential season in the Church’s year. We seek to spend more time in prayer during these periods in preparation for a great celebration and feast. Advent as we know is the period of preparation for the great celebration of Christmas. Day-by-day as the days grow shorter our anticipation grows as we prepare to celebrate the wonder of God becoming one of us in his Son, Jesus 2000 years ago and prepare ourselves for his coming again as merciful Lord.

However unlike Advent, as the days grow longer during Lent as spring unfolds before us our spiritual journey becomes more solemn day-by-day. There is a reason for this; between the penitential season of Lent and the glory of the Easter season this is the Passion of our Lord and his self-offering of himself on the cross which we remember on Good Friday.

May God draw closer to us during this penitential season as we seek to draw ever closer to God.

Revd Martin Cox Team Rector

*For this year’s Lent course we will be using material from the book,*

**Lent 2019**

***“From Now On”***

*a new and original course by Rachel Mann.*

*Taking the film* ***“The Greatest Showman”*** *as a starting point, the course explores ways in which themes of faith, hope and redemption run through all our lives. It examines how each of us face and overcome doubt, temptation and prejudice, and how we can begin to live authentic lives.*

*Each session will include watching clips from the film but it is advised to have watched the full film before the sessions begin. If you haven’t had the opportunity there will be a showing at:*

***7pm on Friday 1st March 19 @ St George’s***

*Sessions will take place from 7pm to 8.30 pm on the following dates:*

*Tuesday 12th March (St George’s)*

*Tuesday 19th March (St Stephen’s)*

*Wednesday 27th March (St John’s)*

*Tuesday 2nd April (St Stephen’s)*

*Tuesday 9th April (St George’s)*

*Booklets will be provided with the relevant material but if anyone would like to purchase a personal copy of the actual book “From Now On”, it is available to buy at a cost of £6.99 from many on-line retailers.*

***Refreshments will also be provided***

**Key Services & events**

 **Shrove Tuesday 5th March**

 Team shared meal & quiz night

 7pm - St Stephen’s Church

 **Wednesday 6th March**

 Team Choral Eucharist

 7.30pm – St George’s Church

**Sunday 24th March**

\*\* this is designated to follow 5th Sunday arrangements\*\*

8am – Holy Communion –St George’s

10am – Team Holy Communion –St John’s

*with Canon Phil Stone, Scargill Community*

6.30pm – Team Praise On – St Stephen’s

*with Canon Phil Stone, Scargill Community*

**Sunday 31st March**

\*\*Mothering Sunday – 4th Sunday arrangements\*\*

8am – Holy Communion – St Stephen’s

Morning Prayer – St George’s

9.30am – Holy Communion – St Stephen’s

10am – Morning Worship – St John’s

10.30am – Holy Communion –St George’s

*[with children from St George’s Central School]*

