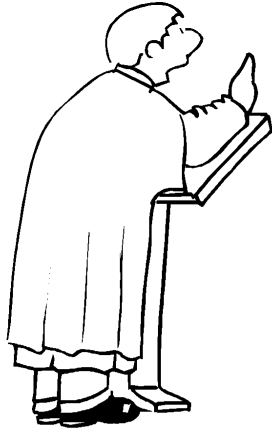


UPDATE

THE MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN FOR THE LIVING STONES OF ST PETER'S, ST JAMES' AND ST BARNABAS'

March 2010



To those complaining about the lack of heating. Can I quote that well known Bible verse...
"Many are cold but few are frozen"

*** Advanced Notice *** Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 20th April
7.30pm

St Peter's Church House

Reports from 2009
Election of Churchwardens
Nominations for our PCC
(please think and pray about this before the meeting)
Discussion of Children and Communion

Please pray for the meeting, put the date in your diary and come!

Please remember to collect a PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARCH sheet from the back of church.



Monthly Parish Prayer Meeting

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 16th March 2010 @ 7.30 pm.
St. Peter's Church House

PLEASE COME—ALL WELCOME

YOUR KINGDOM COME 6.30 PM EACH SUNDAY A SHORT SERIES OF EVENING REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

MAR 7TH

CARING FOR THE EARTH

ST BARNABAS'

MAR 21TH

SEEKING SOCIAL JUSTICE

ST PETER'S

MAR 28TH

WHAT KIND OF KING

ST JAMES'

Night Shelter in St Peter's

The shelter in Church House continues to meet the needs of Hereford's rough sleepers, writes Jonathan Coore. Around a dozen have gathered in the warmth and safety and have access to other agencies designed to help them further.

The good news is that we have managed to house four people successfully with ongoing support and are steadily working through the case load.

The shelter will be extended beyond its original month so do please continue to pray for the workers and guests. It is a privilege to be able to serve in this way and thank you for the prayer and practical support.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH OFFICE

24, St James Road
Hereford
HR1 2QS

Tel: 01432 276320

email: paultowner@ukgateway.net

The deadline for items for our weekly Sunday Notice Sheet is Thursday 10.30am.

UPDATE Coordinator Diana Thomas

dianathomas@btinternet.com

The deadline for items for UPDATE to Diana by the 20th of each month please

For all of this and more
look on our website

www.spsj.org.uk

Website items to Peter Massey
pwmassey@btinternet.com

Paul's Ponderings

I haven't yet got to the bottom of this - any ideas would be most welcome! Why is it that, with Easter being able to be any date from 23rd March to 24th April, that three times in just over twenty years Ash Wednesday falls on 17th February? The reason I am asking this is not simple calendrics, as it has more to do with, believe it or not, liturgy and prayer!

You see, on the last Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima in the Prayer Book, the set Epistle reading is the whole of 1 Corinthians 13. So in 1999 and in 2021, and also this year, the set reading for St Valentine's Day is all about love!

This set me thinking about the motivation for the Lent disciplines I and many others adopt - what is the *motivation* for the choices I make? It might be that I want to spend less on food, and give more to charity - a good cause! It could be that I want to spend more time in prayer and less in watching TV - again surely a good thing. It might be that I wish to learn to exercise some self-control, and challenge myself to be more patient - plenty of scope there.

But 1 Corinthians 13 makes it clear that any and all of these *without love* are worthless, and achieve - nothing! Being *driven* by "the desires God places in my heart" is without doubt a godly purpose. But might it not be even richer, more in keeping with this amazing chapter, to ask that the love of God *draws* us into actions, that His love *fills* our intentions, that His love *informs* our choices? **Then our Lent disciplines will produce good fruit, to God's glory.**

Clergy Corner

This month's contributor is Jonathan Coore

During Lent we reflect on and participate in Jesus' own period of tempting and testing in the wilderness. For Jesus, it was not a self-serving introspective but the forging of a relationship with God where self was denied and God placed first.

This concept is highly counter-cultural in our contemporary culture. Self has been promoted over other. '*We're worth it*' and '*We deserve it*' are tag lines frequently found in adverts. Imagine Jesus saying, 'I will turn the stones into bread "because I'm worth it."' The Holy Spirit led him out there in order to meet, in a real way, with God. He went with nothing but himself. Whatever cares or burdens he may have had were left at the entrance to the Judean desert.

The wilderness experience of Christ tells us that amidst and amongst everything else, it is good to stop and come before God. Self-examination before God is hard work but the rewards gained are of incalculable wealth. It is no accident that Lent leads us straight into Jesus' ultimate expression of selflessness, the cross.

As we surrender more and more of ourselves to God it is my prayer that he will reveal more and more of himself to us. **For this we need to be open to God, self-denying and self-sacrificing. We cannot fully partake in any other way.**

St. Peter's Sunday services have moved
into Church House just for the winter.



Date	St Peter's	St James'	St Barnabas'
March 7th	8.00 am & 10.30am	9.00am & 10.30 am	6.30 pm
March 14th	8.00 am, 10.30am & 6.30pm	9.00am & 10.30 am	No service
March 21st	8.00 am & 10.30am	9.00am, 10.30 am & 6.30pm	No service
March 28th	8.00 am, 10.30am & 6.30pm	9.00am & 10.30 am	No service

YOUTH ZONE

ACCESS

for school years 10-13
 For more info call **Andy Clark on 07590 617738**

ST JAMES' SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the 10.30 service, we welcome youngsters old and new between the **ages of 3 - 11** to join our groups.

d2b (Dare to Believe)

School years 7 to 9
St. James' Church 10.30am.

A church based youth group, we meet every Sunday morning during term times.

ST. PETER'S EXPLORERS

on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 service - for ages 7-11+.