



February 14th 2021

**Greetings in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.
In this time of uncertainty,
we declare: Jesus is Lord!**

Lent Approaching...

It's hard to believe, but Lent is only just around the corner. Wednesday 17th February is Ash Wednesday, and from there we begin the journey with Jesus towards Holy Week and the cross.

This year Lent (like everything!) feels very strange. In some ways this last year has felt like a kind of drawn out Lent, a wilderness time when we have lost the familiar markers and milestones we rely on to make sense of our lives. It has also been enforced on us by circumstances. Rather than choosing to give things up, as many people do during Lent, we have been forced to give up many of the things which are most precious to us. Rather than making a conscious effort to empty our lives of busyness and create space for thought and prayer, many of us have found ourselves with more time than ever on our hands. We may be longing for the new life and hope of Easter, even before we have stepped into Lent.

So what might Lent mean for us this year? The words we traditionally say on Ash Wednesday as ashes are imposed: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return' are, as ever, an important and sobering reminder of our humanity. But perhaps this year even those words are reframed by the experience we have been through and continue to live with. As I read in an article this week, "People don't need to be reminded of their mortality; this past year has made that clear. What we need to be reminded of this year is that God can do something with dust and ashes."

Lent will be different. But nonetheless, I encourage us all to engage with it and to embrace the difference, knowing that we are dust but also knowing what God can do in us and through us. For those who are able to join us on Zoom there will be a very simple (half hour) service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 6pm. And on the next page you will find some ideas of Lent resources to access online, enabling deepening prayer and reflection in the coming weeks, however much or little time you have to spare.

As we prepare to enter into Lent, a prayer often used on Ash Wednesday:

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

Resources for Lent

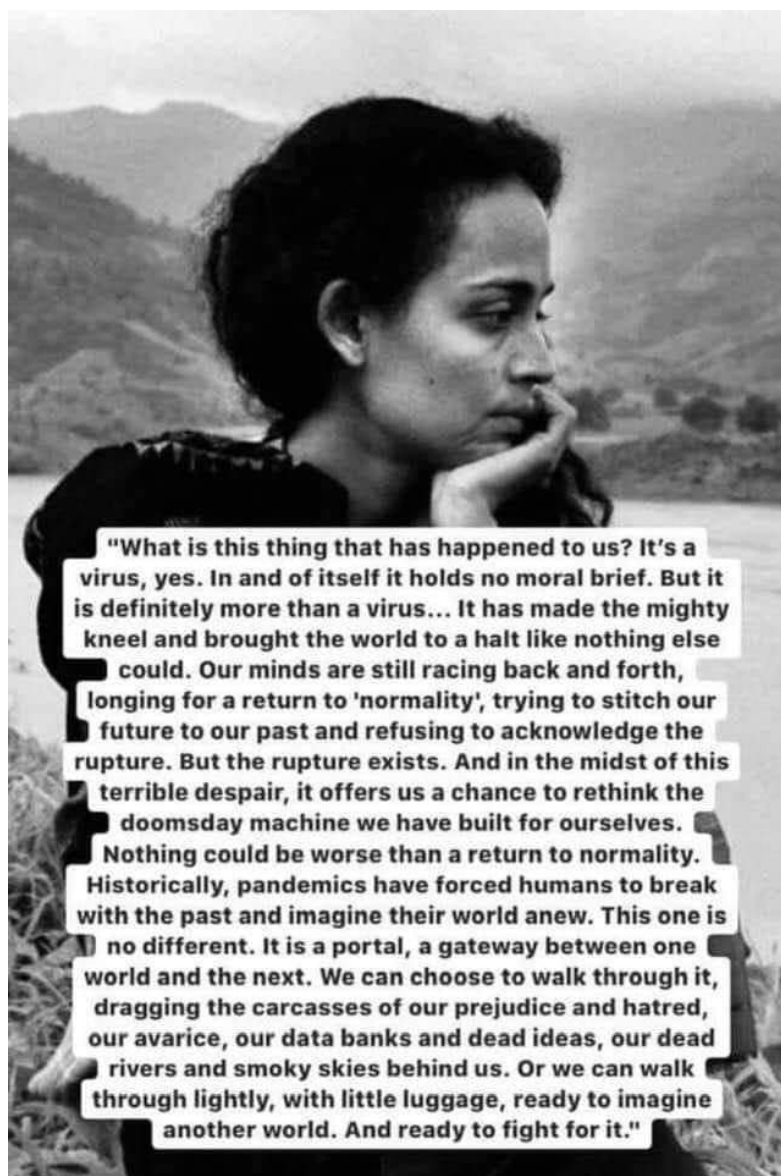
i) Catching the Wave: Catching the Wave is a 40 day prayer guide encouraging us to pray. It can be used at any time. Some people like to use it in the run up to Easter (during Lent). Visit <https://thereishope.co.uk/40-days/> to sign up for a daily email to your inbox.

ii) LECTIO 365: LECTIO 365 is a daily devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day. Written by leaders from the 24-7 Prayer movement, this resource helps you engage with Scripture to inspire prayer and shape your life. Visit <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional> to find out more.

iii) The Church of England's #LIVE LENT is also available to access via an app or email, and offers reflections and prayers based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele. Check out:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

A thought from novelist Arundhati Roy



From Bishop Libby

In last week's Church Times, Makoto Fujimura, a Christian artist, wrote about the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi - the restoration of treasured ceramic ware by reassembling the pieces with visible, often gold infused, repairs to create something even more beautiful than the original. This practice has its roots in peacemaking. It is redemptive. Kintsugi does not just 'fix' or repair a broken vessel, it is an act of recreation that gives honour to brokenness by making visible where damage has occurred.

As we move from Christmas to Easter and prepare for Lent, we are reminded that the cross is the glory of God. As the body of Christ, we are daily broken in service of the Kingdom: our brokenness is not shame, for in the hands of the 'master potter' our damage and flaws may become marks of wonder and grace –the means of our own transformation, and an offering reconciliation for the world.

I pray our sense of brokenness and fragmentation may become something beautiful for God.

+Libby

Ash Wednesday

Please join us on zoom at 6pm on Wednesday 17th for a short and simple (30 mins) service of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Lent. Please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand!

A Prayer for those experiencing anxiety

God of love and wisdom,
you know all our anxieties and fears:
Grant that we may cast all our care on you,
knowing that you care for us.
Give us quietness of mind,
and unshaken trust in you,
and keep us in perfect peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer ...

In this testing time, do not hesitate to ask for prayer for any concern you have. We all face difficulties and challenges, but prayer makes a difference. In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Sunday Worship

10:15am Holy Communion: Despite being allowed to stay open during the current lockdown, the PCC has made the decision to pause our 10.15am service to reduce social contact and the possibility of transmission of the new and highly contagious Covid strain. We continue to monitor the situation, and we will reopen when we feel it is safe to do so. Watch this space for more details. In the meanwhile, everyone is welcome to join us for our Zoom worship (see below).

11am Worship via Zoom: see below for joining details.

Joining Details for Zoom Worship

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet:

The easiest way is to click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/450891605?pwd=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VIOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

Alternatively:

1. Open Zoom and select 'Join' or 'Join a Meeting'
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **450 891 605**
3. Select 'Join'
4. When prompted for the Meeting Password, enter **73837**
5. Select 'Continue' or 'Join Meeting' and you will be connected

By Phone – these are the numbers you must now use:

1. Pick any one of the numbers below (doesn't matter which), if one doesn't work, pick another: 0203 481 5240 ; 0131 460 1196 ; 0203 051 2874 ; 0203 481 5237
2. Dial the number and when prompted for the Meeting ID press: **450 891 605#**
3. You will then be prompted for a Participant ID, just press **#**
4. Finally, you will be prompted for the Meeting Password, press: **73837#**
5. You will be connected and able to hear everything that is happening

If you have problems with accessing the service on Sunday, please call Anita

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

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Vacant

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Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Liz Runcorn

We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city

Follow us on Twitter: [@stpetersderby](https://twitter.com/stpetersderby)

www.stpetersderby.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Link: Revd. Anita Matthews

IN THE WEEK

The church office is closed until further notice, but telephone calls to the Office on 01332 360790 and emails to office@stpetersderby.org.uk will be monitored