

The Lighthouse



First Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Mark chapter 1 verses 9–15.

‘One moment in time.’ – Whitney Houston

Greetings! I trust that you are making the best of the lockdown. When we look back, it seems such a long time since we had to adapt to this different lifestyle. Mark, the writer of our reading today, also looked back. My view is that he was the first gospel writer to put quill to papyrus, and it would appear his mind as well as the paper were almost blank as he begins to write. He skirts around the temptations of Jesus. What little he chose to recall of the temptations of Jesus is in Mark 1 v12–13. A rather thin account, compared with Matthew and Luke. Maybe Mark thought it wasn't that important to record the temptations of Jesus, maybe he couldn't express things well, or maybe he simply forgot all about it when he came to write his recollections years later. Difficulty in recalling things is all part of ageing.

Being on the heavenly side of 70, I am finding that I forget things from time to time. On the positive side, I find that I am reflecting on my past more and more. Carol and I were reflecting on our time together in Liverpool in the mid-1980s. We loved going to the Liverpool Empire, and to art galleries, including the Walker Art Gallery. There is a short cut we used to take from Lime Street Station to the Walker Art Gallery which took us down Christian Street. There is a longer route that took you down Hope Street! Following our family history, I have just discovered that my great-great Grandad lived in Christian Street, on the corner of St Joseph's Terrace. His name was Joseph Densler Walker.

Not too sure how old Mark was when he wrote his gospel – he was certainly ‘of an age’ and his writings are personal reflections. His gospel is a journey of the uniqueness of Jesus, and what he did and said, and I must stress how positive and faithful Mark is in recording his gospel. His final words are encouragement to us in Mark 16 v20: ‘The disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by signs that accompanied it.’

Whether it is the lockdown, Lent or life itself, there is so much for us to discover. In the lockdown, look for good, see the best in things, be positive. In Lent, walk with Jesus, learn from Him, stay close to Him as He leads us on our journey of faith. In life, be thankful. I once went to a birthday party of a lady who was 100. She had three candles on her cake: one for the past for which she gave thanks, one for the present for which she asked for daily strength, and one for the future which she entrusted into God's hands.

Every Blessing, Derek the Cleric.

Covid-19 vaccine Fact Check. ‘Even if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19, you must follow the rules and stay at home to stop the spread of coronavirus.’



Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride and Walk: *Report for 2020*

Following the successful day last September, our treasurer has just received a cheque from the trust, being our half share of the sponsorship money, together with gift-aided income, bringing our total income for this event to £494.00.

This is a welcome result. Sincere thanks go to all who were involved in making this event a success. The date for your diary for this year's ride/walk is Saturday, 11th September 2021.

–Neil Adams



Photo: Norfolk Churches Trust



Curlews on the pastures

Photo: Alan Crawshaw

Ask

Q. What do curlews like to eat?

A. Worms, shellfish and shrimps.

Q. Why are curlews on the pastures?

A. Farmland and grassland are two of their natural habitats, in addition to coastal and wetland areas. Under the snow, there will be things to eat. Their curved beaks are good at finding food in the mud.

Q. Are curlews endangered?

A. Yes, curlews are on the UK's [Red List](#) (Birds of Conservation Concern 4).

–lw

We give thanks for:

- + Our Ash Wednesday Zoom service bringing people together
- + Lent and time to reflect on God's presence in our lives
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + progress being made in finding new treatments for coronavirus
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + God's word and help for our own situations
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + that we can take our worries to Jesus in prayer
- + the days staying lighter for longer each week now
- + time spent outside in nature
- + the continuing success of the vaccines rollout

*In February there is
everything to hope for
and nothing to regret.*

–Patience Strong



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

SAUDI ARABIA

Population 34.7 million. 1.2 million Christians.

Leaving Islam is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia. Whether Saudi or expatriate, Christians living in Saudi Arabia – where the official religion and law is Islamic – can expect to encounter severe opposition to their faith.

Prayer points

- Thank God that increasing numbers of Muslims are seeing visions of Jesus!
- Pray that God will provide ways for new believers to find fellowship and discipleship.
- Pray for protection and wisdom for all Christians in Saudi Arabia.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Saudi Arabia, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Saudi Arabia - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Saudi Arabia from Open Doors

Lord Jesus, strengthen, protect and guide all converts who boldly follow you under great risk. Provide for them a small network of Christians where they can receive encouragement and discipleship. Use the internet to strengthen and grow the church in Saudi Arabia. May women be given greater equality and freedom in Saudi society. Amen.

Thanks to Revd Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

Wordsearch – The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Mark chapter 1 verses 9 to 15.

I	R	M	E	E	L	I	L	A	G	H	T	R	D
R	T	N	E	J	D	D	S	I	D	M	P	E	E
R	E	L	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	O	R	B	O
E	P	J	I	P	E	P	T	S	S	T	F	E	O
P	E	N	E	A	F	I	E	N	I	J	O	E	O
E	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	E	T	O	R	L	D
N	M	V	R	V	O	I	C	E	P	R	T	T	I
T	T	Z	T	A	T	F	K	T	A	D	Y	R	O
G	E	D	O	V	E	E	D	E	B	A	P	E	M
I	I	S	J	O	H	N	E	D	E	N	A	S	D
M	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	N	J	E	E	T
T	I	I	I	I	T	I	E	I	H	D	J	D	E
L	T	E	M	P	T	E	D	S	P	I	R	I	T
R	S	S	N	M	P	L	E	A	S	E	D	R	T

- VOICE
- BAPTISED
- PLEASED
- NAZARETH
- GALILEE
- JORDAN
- DOVE
- FORTY
- JOHN
- REPENT
- SPIRIT
- DESERT
- TEMPTED
- BELIEVE
- KINGDOM

Stopwatch:
how quickly
can you solve
these anagrams?

TIN CHAIRS

REGALLY

DEER STUNT

LED SCAN

IF HAT

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

This year Bishop Graham is asking us to support *Together in Unity*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's appeal to support churches and communities around the world during the pandemic.

Funds raised will provide income support, food security, facilities for basic hygiene and equipment to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Already, positive action is happening:

In Bangladesh, in the midst of job losses and economic pressures from lockdown, hundreds of vulnerable families, from both church and wider communities, have received support to buy food and daily necessities.

More news from the appeal next week.

A Prayer

Heal us, O God, from all our afflictions
and keep us steadfast in your love;
bind up our wounds,
raise us from death,
and lead us to fullness of life:
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

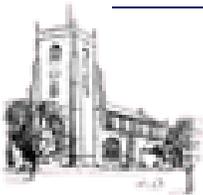
—Common Worship

*Anagrams: Christian, gallery, entrusted,
candles, faith* With help from: anagrammaker.com

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + key workers and those in essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the new vaccines
- + people waiting to be called for the vaccine and those going for their jobs
- + our teachers and schools
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, their jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + those who are homeless
- + those who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + those facing any illness or medical treatment
- + those who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend, in church or online
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + hope, encouragement and peace during this time of continuing restrictions
- + that people will respond to the call by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray daily for the nation and those who have died

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing
in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. –Psalm 19:14*



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

