

The Lighthouse



Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Mark chapter 8 verses 31–38.

‘Listen to What the Man Said.’

– Paul McCartney and Wings

Dear Friends, The Revd Dave began his thought-provoking sermon last week with three quotes. The first quote “I think, therefore I am” is by Descartes, the second and third are by Epictetus and Oscar Wilde. May I offer a few other quotations? Henri Nouwen, a Christian writer, said this: “Forgiveness changes the way we remember.” Hardly as profound, Spike Milligan said, “Money can’t buy happiness, but it does bring you a better form of misery.” Here’s a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.”

Let’s stick with Dietrich Bonhoeffer if we may, please. I mention Bonhoeffer in my sermon on February 28th, but not until my last point, so you could well have nodded off by then. Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 in Breslau, then in Germany, now Poland. At the age of 21 he completed his Doctor of Theology degree at Berlin University in 1927. He went to New York and was influenced by the need to speak out about social injustices and the ineptitude of the church to bring about integration of those who were, for example, black and exploited. Bonhoeffer formed a lifelong love for African American spirituals. Returning to Germany in 1931 he tempered his intellectual studies with a love of seeing things from ‘down below’, and he became a champion of the underdog in society. In 1933, as Hitler gained more power, Bonhoeffer lectured and preached against the Fuhrer. In time, preaching regularly in the Confessing Church, opposing Hitler, and aiding Jews to reach Switzerland, Bonhoeffer was arrested and taken to Tegel Prison. Through the underground movement his writings were smuggled out; he saw the prison as his church and witnessed openly to Christ. He protected his family, by not accepting offers to escape to the U.S., as his brother and brother-in-law were also in prison. He was taken from Tegel prison to Flossenburg concentration camp, where on April 8th 1944, without trial or witnesses, he was condemned to death. He was executed there by hanging at dawn the following day, just two weeks before soldiers from the United States’ 90th and 97th Infantry Divisions liberated the camp, three weeks before the Soviet capture of Berlin, and a month before the surrender of Nazi Germany.



Bonhoeffer in 1932

Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-R0211-316
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Here is a Bonhoeffer quote to finish with – “Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless, and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued.”

With every blessing, Derek the Cleric.

Keep your distance. Protect the NHS. Save lives.



Congratulations!

A very happy birthday to Gwyn, a member of our community, who is celebrating her 100th birthday!

Thank you

To everyone who contributed to the Church of England Children's Society boxes and to Shirley who collected them last year, counted up all the pennies and has recently returned the boxes to us along with a letter of thanks from the national office.

Together we raised £284.77 for this good cause.

The letter of thanks includes the following words: "You and your box holders are helping improve the lives of children who feel scared, unloved and like they simply don't matter."

The Children's Society helps children in all kinds of difficulties to make a better life for themselves. To find out more about their work, visit their website at [Our Areas Of Work | The Children's Society](#).

Lenten journeys



The garden can teach us a lot about time and growth. On the first day of Lent, I was delighted to find these tomato seedlings coming up. In just a week they've grown so much. Where will they be by Easter?!

–Lois Williams

We give thanks for:

- + Lent and time to reflect on God's presence in our lives
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + progress being made in 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
- + signs of spring in the garden
- + time spent outside in nature
- + the continuing success of the vaccines rollout

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

–Jesus speaking to the crowd in Mark 8: 34–36



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

MALDIVES

Population 452,000. A few thousand Christians.

The Maldives – a densely populated chain of nearly 1,200 islands – are viewed by many as a luxury holiday destination, but behind the beauty of this island paradise lies an oppressive regime. Maldivian Christians must keep their faith completely secret.

Prayer points

- Pray that secret believers in the Maldives would find miraculous ways to meet and study God’s Word together.
- Pray for wisdom and courage for expatriate believers.
- Pray that God will break through this oppressive regime and make it a place where His name can be freely worshipped.

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

A prayer for the Maldives from Open Doors

Lord Jesus, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Maldives who are courageously following you in secret, despite the dangers they face. Thank you that you know each one by name and love them dearly. Protect, help and encourage them, and provide ways for Christians to meet safely. Soften the heart of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih towards Christians. Amen.

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

Wordsearch – Jesus predicts his death

Thanks to Carol for this week’s puzzle. All the words can be found in Mark chapter 8 verses 31 to 38.

G	S	E	Y	P	F	L	L	N	L	E	L	A	W
S	U	W	Y	E	C	L	E	T	I	B	J	O	F
R	L	O	L	T	E	S	P	R	F	R	L	O	T
O	C	R	T	E	E	U	S	L	E	L	R	F	E
W	E	L	E	R	R	F	O	O	O	E	O	S	R
T	Y	D	A	I	E	F	G	F	A	E	S	E	T
R	N	G	C	C	J	E	E	O	T	T	E	S	R
A	E	R	H	E	E	R	F	O	R	F	E	I	T
S	D	E	E	T	C	R	F	R	R	R	A	E	O
A	I	B	R	R	T	S	E	S	O	L	E	P	R
T	Y	U	S	F	E	F	E	E	S	T	S	E	Y
A	K	K	L	I	D	R	E	S	I	D	R	R	H
N	R	E	E	E	N	E	O	C	F	F	S	E	P
R	C	R	O	S	S	O	U	L	O	O	S	C	E

- FOLLOW
- REJECTED
- SOUL
- FORFEIT
- WORLD
- REBUKE
- DENY
- SUFFER
- LIFE
- PETER
- SATAN
- TEACHERS
- LOSES
- CROSS
- GOSPEL

Stopwatch:
how quickly
can you solve
these anagrams?

THROW

INVERSE FOGS

MOP CHAIN

ERR TUNING

GROUNDED

(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.

Last week we highlighted some of the positive action that is already happening. Here is some more good news:

In Maridi, South Sudan, over two hundred pastors and lay readers were provided food relief, church leaders were trained in virus prevention, and bicycles and hand microphones were provided for five pastors to carry virus prevention messages into remote areas. *–Diocese of Norwich website*

A Prayer for the nation

We beseech thee, Master, to be our helper and protector.
Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly;
raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly;
restore the wanderers of thy people;
feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;
raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.

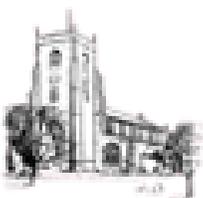
–Clement of Rome, 1st Century

This prayer is offered on the Church of England's website as one of several prayers for the nation.

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

Anagrams: worth, forgiveness, champion, returning, underdog With help from: anagrammaker.com



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

