

Issue No 59 Sunday 18th February 2018

Events This week

Saturday 17th Church Growth Lent Course – The Rectory Enham

Sunday 18th

Holy Communion 8 am Penton

All Age Worship 10 am Charlton

Family Service 10 am Enham

Family Service 10 am Hatherden

All Age Worship with Communion 10.30 am Weyhill

Evensong 6 pm Tangley

Monday 19th Tea & Natter 2.30 pm Charlton

Tuesday 20th Messy church 3 pm Smannell Sch

Wednesday 21st Holy Communion Tangley 10 am

Thursday 22nd Compline 9.15 pm Charlton

Notices from around the Benefice....

Church Growth - Lent Course from Saturday 17th 10 am The Rectory Enham please call Revd Val for details 01264 748065

Tough Questions of Faith – Lent Course The Rectory Penton 7.30 pm 1st, 8th and 22nd March.

Saturday 23rd June Morgan Szymanski - Classical Guitarist Concert Christ Church Hatherden. Please contact ROSIE SWAYNE on 01264 735357 or rosie.swayne@btinternet.com for information and to purchase tickets which are £15.00 to include wine and refreshments after the concert. On sale now.

In your Prayers please pray for.....

Those who are abstaining from something they cherish or doing a good deed everyday to help or support others during our time of lent.

Our worship leaders as we enter this special time of year in the church calendar.

All students as they return to school and college after the holidays especially the older ones who are about to start mock exams.

Community Diary Dates

Retreat Day Monday 26th March reserve you place now by contact Jude. Full details out soon.

If you would like a prayer said for you, family or friends by the benefice prayer group please email prayer@pastrowbenefice.org.uk

Readings This Week

Gen 9 8 – 17

Ps 25 1 – 9

1 Pet 3 18 – end

Mark 1 9 - 15

Next Week

Gen 17 1 – 7, 15 – 16

Ps 22 23 – end

Rom 4 13 – end

Mark 8 31 - end

Words of Encouragement

By Oluyinka Esan

To Die or Live?

A certain message making the rounds on social media in the run up to Lent is most instructive. It is a reminder of our usual Lenten practice. Call it a sacrifice or a fast, we try to give something up during Lent. Usually this involves letting go of selected pleasures. For some it will be cakes, or chocolate; it could even be meat or certain beverages. It could even be giving up daytime meals, just to be better attuned to the presence of God. That's really challenging, as easy as it sounds. We never know how attached we are to little pleasures but this social media message challenges us to raise the bar.

We are called to examine our behaviour – those unwitting character traits that give us strange pleasures. These are as fleas on our coats, nits in our comb – grumbling, resentment, bitterness and unforgiveness, worry, doubt and discouragement, despair, gossip, hatred and anger. They are all frighteningly familiar strangers that lie with us in bed. This Lent we are called to root them out.

We are called to put them to death that we can be made alive in the spirit. Truly, to live is Christ, to die is gain. So help us God!

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit (1 Peter 3:18)

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Call, or email me with any of your dates for events within your parish. Jude 07999 352585 eventsadmin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk