

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. February.**

**Notices;**

**Karen and I are planning to hold a short zoom service of Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm. on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. February. We hope that you will be able to join us – we will send joining details in the next few days. This will be our first zoom service and I hope and pray that we can manage the technology needed!**

**There are lots of different resources for Lent available on the Diocesan website which can be found at; <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/leaning-into-lent-2021/> if you would like to use them, or alternatively maybe read a chapter of one of the Gospel's each day and spend a little time reflecting on what you have read.**

**Please do ring me anytime if I can provide any support or help; 01788 810372, 07808 137550 or [barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk](mailto:barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk)**

***With my love and prayers for you all  
Barbara***

**Gospel Reading for this Sunday is Mark ch. 9 vv. 2 -9**

**The Transfiguration.**

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

As we continue in our lockdown lives – we can only long and wonder what it would feel like to stand on a mountain top – and maybe because of lockdown we can resonate even more with this account of the awe and wonder that the disciples felt on the top of that mountain with Jesus when he was transformed in front of them.

Peter, James and John who accompanied Jesus climbing up to that mountain, must have followed him in faith and love, not knowing why they were obeying him – perhaps they knew Jesus needed to have some quiet time to teach them, and to pray to his Father away from the crowds who followed him.

Jesus needed periods of quiet reflection and meditation (as people often focus on during Lent). Jesus also showed us time and time again that his real life and work was with the people who needed him, to be a voice to the voiceless, a healer of the hurting, a challenge to the hypocrites – these were the daily tasks of Jesus – and the tasks to which he returned with his disciples after his transfiguration experience.

Another person who transfigured lives was of course St. Valentine, who we also celebrate this weekend, St. Valentine was believed to be a 3<sup>rd</sup>. Century martyr and is now the patron saint of engaged couples, bee keepers and the young!

Our lives can be transformed by both love and sorrow; over the past week I have been talking to wedding couples who are postponing their weddings again to 2022, and also helping three bereaved families plan funerals.

Lent gives us the time and opportunity to reflect on our lives, on the transforming events that can bring us both great joy and sometimes great sadness. For many of us the restrictions we are living under might seem a bit like climbing that mountain alongside those disciples, not knowing what the end of the climb would bring;

These times of joy, sadness and at the moment what seems the never ending uncertainty during lockdown gives us the opportunity to reflect on God's love and the power He has to transform each of our lives if we take the time to welcome Him into our lives.

**Collect for the Sunday Next Before Lent.**

Almighty Father,

Whose Son was revealed in Majesty

Before he suffered death upon the cross:

Give us grace to perceive his glory,

That we may be strengthened to suffer with him

And be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

Please also pray for:

The family of Catherine Bailey who's funeral service is on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. February

The family of Michael Kilvington (Monks Kirby) who's  
funeral service is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. February.

The process of appointing a new priest in charge and for those from both this benefice and the Draycote benefice who are appointed to make decisions in the process.