

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

- Those who are sick, especially Chloe Evans Lippett, Max Watters and Geoff Gardner.
- Those who can no longer get to church:
- Those who have left requests on the prayer board.
- Those who have died especially Rosemary Beeny, Sheena Ascott, Jim Marples and the families and friends who mourn them.



**Welcome to St. Mary's**

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Lent 3**

Please join us for tea and coffee after the 9.30 am service



**NOTICES**

**Electoral Roll** We have to make a new Electoral Roll. (This happens every 6 years). If St Mary's is your Church, please make sure that you have filled in a new yellow Electoral Roll form and returned it to Lesley Hill by Friday 12th April at the latest.

**YEWsave for LENT!** It's not too late, you can still join in and help us in our upkeep of the churchyard, one of the beautiful 'green spaces' in Bridport. The application for work on the yew trees has been approved by the Diocese and we now just need to raise the money to make it happen! Could your Lent abstinence mean that you are able to gift a small amount each week to the YEWsave project? Collection envelopes and Gift Aid forms are now available in church. Eileen Dearden and Jane Trower

The next concert of the **BRIDPORT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** is due to take place on Sunday 7th April at 3pm at St. Swithun's Church. Tickets are £10, available on the day and include teas after the concert. Free entry for children. Further information from Caroline Lewars 01935 824786

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May.** The focus this year is on helping the world's poorest mothers to give birth safely. At the team service at St Mary's on 28<sup>th</sup> April we will be welcoming Fina Daborn who will talk about Christian Aid's work in Bolivia, illustrated by a photo exhibition. Recently a number of faithful house to house collectors have had to retire. If you would like to help with the house to house collection on 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May, or would just like to find out more, please contact Peter Wright by Tel 456967 or email: [pwdewright@gmail.com](mailto:pwdewright@gmail.com)

**The Rector writes .....**

The gardener in today's gospel story asks for one more year for the fig tree that produces no fruit. Just one more year. Sometimes we look at a situation or a person and simply focus on what is lacking. We do not see the possibility for abundance of life and hope, or the pain and distress that another may be experiencing. We see waste, not possibility. We see loss, not courage or resilience. And sometimes we might ourselves feel dismissed as fruitless, hopeless or lifeless.

Our faith is all about second chances.

Is there a person or a project that frustrates and annoys you? Is there a situation where you just want to give up? Is there any way you can give it a second chance – invest in it with time or love and see whether it bears fruit?

This Lent can you imagine how you might give a situation in your life – maybe even yourself – a second chance?

*Deb Smith*

**TODAY'S SERVICES**

**9.30 am Parish Communion**, Revd Deb Smith celebrant  
**Readings** : 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13: 1-9

**Hymns**: 813, 358, 594, 441, 706

**4.00 pm XALT** informal service in Church House: "Everybody loves good neighbours: *The door's open*

**6.30 pm The Haven** at St John's West Bay

**THIS WEEK**

Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer in the meeting room
Wednesday	11.30-1.00 pm	Cupboard Love 'Walk-in' Wednesday
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Course
Thursday	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Course
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice
Friday	9.30 – 11.00 am	Tots Time in Church House

**NOTICES FOR NEXT WEEK**

Please send Items for the March 31<sup>st</sup> pewslip to Philip Saunders ([ph.saunders@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:ph.saunders@pobroadband.co.uk) tel. 01308 538332) by 10.00am on Wed 27th March. PWW

**NEXT SUNDAY**

9.30 am **Parish Communion** Revd Pete Stone celebrant

**Readings**: 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; Luke 2: 33-35

6.00 pm **Wholeness and Healing Service** at St John's West Bay

### TODAY'S COLLECT

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Archbishops Council 2000*

### THE EPISTLE IS TAKEN FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

### THE GOSPEL READING IS TAKEN FROM LUKE 13

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

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A **Pastoral Worker** is required with particular responsibility in the Bridport United Church (Methodist and United Reformed) and Uploders Methodist Church. Working under the direction of the minister with pastoral responsibility for the two Churches, you will visit members and those from the wider Church family to provide ongoing pastoral support and work with others to initiate and support outreach activities in a pastoral context. 12 hours per week. Salary £10.65 per hour. Previous experience (employed or voluntary) of working in a pastoral context would be helpful. It is an occupational requirement that the post holder has a Christian faith. The post is also subject to enhanced DBS clearance. For further information and application form contact Alison Cocks (Circuit Steward) 01305 458178 or via email [alison.cocks82@gmail.com](mailto:alison.cocks82@gmail.com) (ref. Ds&w19/01) Closing date 23rd April 2019