

# The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

[www.standrewschurchquernsey.org](http://www.standrewschurchquernsey.org)



## Newsletter for the first Sunday of Lent, 21 February 2021

### The Rector writes ...



St Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus is typical of the staccato nature of his gospel. Much of the detail we find in the other gospels is compressed by Mark into two verses. The message is this: Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days.

And wilderness can be found in many places. The hot and sandy desert. The grey skies of a northern city. Wilderness can also be the place we find ourselves – where we do not wish to be.

Lent this year is different. We don't have the familiar visual signals such as the purple vestments

and frontals, and the absence of flowers, in church. We have enough restriction and austerity without adding Lenten discipline. So, if it helps to take something on or give something up, do it. If it doesn't help, don't worry and don't give yourself something else to feel guilty about.

In the sermon I preached on Ash Wednesday in a Zoom service from the Town Church, I said this:

'Can we simply dare to use Lent as an opportunity to do nothing more than think about what life would be like without God? Without Jesus? Without the Holy Spirit? To imagine the emptiness of annihilation? To imagine an eternal Lent, without the climax of Holy Week? To imagine eternity without the glorious, undeserved, unwarranted, wonder of Easter?

'In other words, can Lent simply be a time to give thanks for the wonderful truth at the heart of our faith that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"?'

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### Lent



Building on the success of last year's #LiveLent: Care for God's Creation, the 2021 Lent resources from the Church of England will again mirror the theme of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, creating a significant shared focus for the whole Church at a key time of year for people's discipleship and learning in the faith.

The Archbishop's Lent Book, written by Hannah Steele and published by SPCK, is called *Living His*

*Story: Sharing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways* and explores the ideas of story, witness and evangelism. The book will be accompanied by free online materials for groups by Chris Russell, with video interviews and more.

The theme for the Church of England's resources (including daily reflections in printed and digital formats from Church House Publishing, as per previous campaigns) is **#LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story**. The material is introduced by the Archbishops, who write: *The*

invitation of this year's #LiveLent to all of us is to participate in God's story. To make it so much part of our own stories that our own lives become impossible to understand without it. And then to be tellers of this story, and the change it has brought to us ...'



Further details, including signing up for the daily email message, downloading the app and viewing and sample pages from the booklet, written by Stephen Hance (the Discipleship and Evangelism Lead for the Archbishops' Council), are now available by clicking [here](#).

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I enjoyed this notice, which was found in a church somewhere in France.

#### Translation

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving ...

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St Andrew's church, like all the churches in Guernsey, will remain closed to all visitors until further notice. Public worship is suspended.

There are three exceptions, which apply to all churches: the priest or minister may use the church for private worship or livestreaming services (accompanied by people with whom they share their home); and one person, the 'premises manager', is allowed to visit the church to check that the structure is in good order. John Campbell has kindly agreed to undertake this role during lockdown. The third exception is that churches can be used for funeral services.

### Opportunities for worship

Many used the last lockdown to explore online worship offered by other churches in Guernsey, as well as viewing or listening to the online services from churches, chapel and cathedrals in England and even further afield.

A list of the various offerings from the Guernsey churches, including our own St Andrew's church service, can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Parish Prayers** will be on Friday 26 February at 9.30 am. The Zoom link will be available a day or so in advance. Please contact Juliette or me if you would like to join Parish Prayers; you will be most welcome.

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The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

## Prayers for the week

*A prayer from the Church of South India, for use before going to sleep:*



God our Father, by whose mercy  
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:  
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,  
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,  
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.  
To your love and protection  
we commit each other and all those we love,  
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray

- for the people of the Bailiwick of Guernsey as we begin the careful journey out of lockdown;
- for generosity of spirit, and a willingness to see the best in people;
- for the staff of our hospital, health centres, and pharmacies, and those engaged in the vaccination programme, as they care for the people of Guernsey;
- for our political leaders, and those who advise them, as they exercise their responsibilities for our well-being and for deciding when it is appropriate to begin the next stage of our release from lockdown;
- for a willingness to look beyond our borders, to recognise human need wherever it is to be found.

We pray, in the Guernsey churches cycle of prayer, for Les Bourgs Hospice (chaplain, Claire Claxton) and the Princess Elizabeth Hospital (lead chaplain, Linda Le Vasseur); for the staff and patients in both the hospice and the hospital.

We pray for all who live in the parish of St Andrew and for our church community.

And, by name, for Stella Machon, Audrey Gollop, Jean Walpole, Chris & Cindy Kennedy, Georgina, Chris Lesbirel, Ann Nicholson, Fletch O'Hara, Elisa Wales, Eileen and Vicky Jones.

## Finally ...

Juliette Robilliard has prepared the service for Sunday 21 February, which has been circulated on Saturday afternoon. It will be available on the church website, thanks to Nicholas Drake. The readings are included in the service for this weekend.



Judy and I were delighted that our first grandchild was born on Friday afternoon. Teodor George Elmore Tomanović weighed in at 3.9 kg (8 lb 9 oz in old money). Mother and baby are doing well! Whilst we are sad that we can't easily travel to see Katherine, Nik and Teo in Norwich just yet, many photos and video clips have been shared with family in Australia, Serbia and Slovenia.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves.

With best wishes and my prayers,

*Tim*

**The Very Revd Tim Barker**

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