



March 2018

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent, as we understand it is the 40-day period leading up to Easter. For some it's a time of abstinence, for others it's the lead up to unwrapping chocolate eggs, and of course for some it's a time to take part in the Lent generosity and Stewardship!

Here are some facts about Lent that might surprise you:

The word Lent has nothing to do with fasting or giving things up but is a shortened version of the Old English word 'lencten', a word which simply means spring. It is thought to have Germanic roots and seems likely to have been used to describe the season when the days began to lengthen, signifying new life and renewal. Over time, Lent became linked to the Christian tradition of fasting before Easter, which always coincided with the spring.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and lasts for 46 days up until Easter Sunday (although officially the Lent fast is only 40 days long as Sundays aren't included), in the lead up to Easter, and runs parallel with the time Christ spent in the wilderness, avoiding temptation at the hands of the Devil, as he prepared for his ministry, death and resurrection. Lent is about fasting and spiritual growth.

Lent is traditionally a time of repentance and spiritual renewal, where we remember Christ's own preparation in the desert, where he turned his back on the temptation of the devil in order to prepare himself for the mission God had sent him to complete. Hundreds of years ago this manifested in the form that people gave up meat, fish, eggs, wine, oil, butter and other dairy products. While many Christians have moved away from this practice, this is still seen in some Eastern Churches, following a much stricter fast.

Lent is also about doing good and isn't just about remembering Christ's suffering - it's a time in which believers try to be the best Christian they can possibly be. In the early Lent traditions, Almsgiving (the giving of charity to the poor and needy) was another important aspect of the fast. So, the principle of Lent giving has been around for hundreds of years. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy"

(1 Cor 12:26)

Let this lent be for All of us a time of looking into ourselves and renewing our relationship with Christ

Tony <><

THE BISHOP'S VISIT TO ST. BLASIUS

On Sunday, February 4th we were honoured to have Bishop Christopher Foster as our Celebrant at our service of Parish Communion for our Patronal Festival.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers in the colour associated with Saint Blasius, Cinnabar or scarlet and our congregation of 100 was boosted by support from friends from St John, Sandown, our Town Mayor, Jon Gilbey, Councillor Richard Priest and Mrs Anne Springman. Bishop Christopher, assisted by Tony and the Bishop's Chaplain, Richard Wyld, led a relaxed and enjoyable service.



Our readings and prayers were led very confidently by two students from the St Blasius Church of England Primary Academy and our choir was, as always, in fine voice and treated us to an excellent rendition of the anthem, the Lord is My Shepherd with a delightful solo from Emma.

The service reflected very positively on our church. After the service three of our church family had their photograph taken with Bishop Christopher and Tony (see below). This was in recognition of the service on July 5th, 2014 when Bishop Christopher christened and confirmed Sandra and Emma, and confirmed Zinnia at a service at Portsmouth Cathedral.

The deadline for the March issue is Friday 9th February.

SERVICES IN MARCH 2018

Please note: services are correct at time of going to press, if there are any changes updates will be given in the weekly Notices and on the Church website: www.st-blasius-church.org.uk.

4th The Third Sunday of Lent

10:15 Parish Communion

11th The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

10:15 Parish Communion

18th The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday

10:15 Parish Communion

25th Palm Sunday

10:15 Parish Communion

30th Good Friday

10:00 Devotional Service with Communion

10:30 The Walk of Witness
to other Shanklin churches with the CWiTS

15:00 Devotional Service "The Last Words of Christ"

31st Easter Eve

19:00 An Easter Vigil to midnight (worshippers are invited to join and leave the Vigil at a time that suits them.)

THE PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

January 11th Marie Skingley

January 23rd Terry France

January 26th Ken Beales

Memorial Service

January 12th Keith Gange



PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH



The Sunday and Festival Collects for this month, with the endings ('Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen', etc) omitted.

4 March - The Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

11 March - The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal.

18 March - The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory.

25 March - Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection.

29 March - Maundy Thursday

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love.

30 March - Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FESTIVALS IN MARCH

From the Church of England Calendar: Major Festivals in bold

Thursday 1	St. David, Bishop of Menevia, <i>Patron of Wales</i> , 601
Friday 2	St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672
Wednesday 7	St. Perpetua, St. Felicity and their Companions, <i>Martyrs at Carthage</i> , 203
Thursday 8	Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910
Saturday 17	St. Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, <i>Patron of Ireland</i> , c460
Monday 19	St. Joseph of Nazareth
Tuesday 20	St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, <i>Missionary</i> , 687
Wednesday 21	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, <i>Reformation Martyr</i> , 1556
Saturday 24	Paul Courturier, Priest, Ecumenist, Peacemaker, 1958
Sunday 25	The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

ST. BLASIUS PRIMARY ACADEMY *From the school's Newsletter:*

We have welcomed a journalist who came to interview some of our staff and children about the developments at our academy. Some Year 6 children found themselves at the centre of a photoshoot for the article.

Some of our very talented mathematicians (or should I say 'mathemagicians') have visited Ryde School for a high level maths challenge. A big well done to Max and Lucy from Year 4 and Adam and Oscar from Year 5 for your terrific efforts... Even I was sweating at some of the questions!

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Danny and Jessica, recently went to Tesco in Ryde to celebrate something enormous. You'll all have read in the newsletter over the last few months that St Blasius were in competition to win some funding for a brand new outdoor gym. It gives me great joy to announce today that our project got the most votes and our school will be awarded a staggering £4000! We will be using this money to build some outdoor exercise equipment that both the children of St Blasius and the local community can use. An enormous thank you to Mrs Raby our School Business Manager for putting in the bid and to Tesco... what wonderful news for the children.

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN SHANKLIN

invite you to reflect on

The Lord's Prayer

Devotional addresses for Lent

Tuesdays at 1.00pm

at The United Reformed Church

26 March	<i>Give us today our daily bread</i>	Sister Stella
13 March	<i>Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us</i>	Rev Helen Millward
20 March	<i>Lead us not into temptation</i>	Rev Nigel Cox
27 March	<i>but deliver us from evil</i>	Rev Brian Harley

A snack lunch is available from 12noon

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

With Brian Hardy Bishop kindly acting as our projectionist, Karen Cave recently transported us all to the Holy Land with delightful photographs and stories from the pilgrimage that she and Norman joined last spring. We saw the church where Jesus changed water into wine: the Via Dolorosa where He carried His cross to Calvary; Karen paddling in the River Jordan and then some ancient steps, now no longer open to tourists because of erosion, but which surely must have borne Jesus's footprints! There was so much more and our thanks go to Karen and to Brian for a very enjoyable afternoon In church on Mothering Sunday, March 11th, we will be selling homemade cakes and biscuits for you to take home.

On Saturday, 24th March our members will give St. Blasius its annual deep spring clean. Come and join us! Tony will conduct a Celtic communion at midday - this was a great success last year! Several ladies will be going again to Carisbrooke Priory on Monday, 26th March, for the M.U. Quiet Day of prayer and reflection. This is a wonderful way to escape the noise and bustle of modern life!!

WORD SEARCH

Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse. As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death.

Find 24 words from the above article

Answers on page 10

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

JULIE

Ladies & Gentlemen's Hair Stylist

Phone Number: 07855 190112

Please use this new number for all appointments

SHANKLIN TOWNSWOMEN'S EVENING GUILD

Wednesday, 21st March
Annual General Meeting.

10:00am in The Methodist Hall

HYDE SHANKLIN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 13th March

7:30pm in the Methodist Hall

Helen Gomez will visit and talk about the Friends of the Animal charity. Our competition will be for an animal picture in any medium.

SHANKLIN EGGHEADS

On a cold, dark evening in February a brave team of St. Blasius members joined together with members of other churches in the town to test their knowledge at the Shanklin Eggheads Quiz. The URC hosted the event and seven teams took part. There were seven subjects with twenty questions to each paper. The questions came thick and fast with very little thinking time. Each paper was then passed to the next table for marking. After a break for refreshments, it was all downhill to the last paper. St. Blasius came fourth out of seven - it could have been worse but a great time was had by all. Better luck next time.....



SHANKLIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Friends of Shanklin Community Library (FOSCL)

Anyone interested in joining us can call in at the library for a membership form for which there is no charge.

Opening Times:

Monday 9:30am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 9:30am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Thursday CLOSED

Friday 9:30am - 12:30am and 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sewing - Keep Calm and Carry On Sewing.

Wednesday 10.00am - 12.00pm

Stay Calm Colouring for Adults.

Friday 1.45pm - 3.00pm

Further details on all of the above please call: 01983 717184

NOTES FROM JANUARY'S PCC MEETING

Dr David Wake and Emma Broome, our Parish representatives reported that they had met with the Venerable Peter Sutton, our Archdeacon, to discuss the next steps in appointing a new priest for St Blasius and our sister church, St John in Sandown. Members were pleased to hear that our Local Minister, Rev Tony Richards, will be more involved in the process this time around.

There was a lot of discussion about the impending visit of the Bishop of Portsmouth, The Right Reverend Christopher Foster, all of it a steep learning curve: Will there be sufficient car-parking? Who should have a special invitation? In what order do people process? Who says what during the service? Will the children be heard? Have we told the Press? Who will take some photos? Will Bishop Christopher stay for coffee? By the time you read this it will all be over!

Members learned that our church is actually the County Church for the island's Royal British Legion and it is an honour to have their old Standard laid up in the Parish Room.

Everyone was asked to think hard about expanding the amount of local content in our parish magazine so we can encourage a culture of contributions from our church family and, eventually, from the wider community when we re-launch the magazine next year.

Members voted to adopt the 2018 Budget which Bob Crawley, our Treasurer, had prepared. This includes a sum of £15,000 for identified and necessary repairs and maintenance and covers the cost of replacing our aged boiler.

This year we are planning a calendar of events, mission and fund-raising, for the whole of 2018 so we all know in good time what is happening and when, then we can put the dates in our diaries and plan accordingly.

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

holy	palm	arrived	gates	Jerusalem	Passover
Held	Messiah	Own	People	City	Came
Humility	Riding	Young	Donkey	Triumph	Crowds
Rapturous	Fronds	Healer	Welcomed	Reject	death

THE ANNUAL REVISION OF OUR ELECTORAL ROLL

Our annual meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 18th at 7pm. As we approach this meeting it will be time for us to revise and update our Electoral Roll which will take place on March 28th. Inclusion on our Electoral Roll gives you the right to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and vote for members of our Parochial Church Council.

At least two weeks before the commencement of this revision a notice will be posted on our notice board informing the congregation about the revision and asking people to come forward if they would like their name added to the roll. To qualify to be on the roll a person must be:

- Baptized
- 16 years or older before the date of the annual meeting,
- a member of the Church of England, or of a Church in communion therewith and resident in the parish or
 - if a person is not resident in the parish, to have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment or
 - a member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (but not being a Church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

When the revision is completed, a copy of the revised roll, together with a list of the names that have been removed, will be published on the notice board for not less than 14 days before the annual meeting. During this period any errors or omissions may be corrected. No names can be added or removed during the period between the completion of the revision and the close of our annual meeting. If you would like to have your name added to our roll please look out for the notice which will appear on our notice board.

Bob Crawley, Honorary Treasurer

PS: If you are unsure as to whether you reside in our parish please go to **www.achurchnearyou.com/shanklin-st-blasius** and click on "find us" and then "parish boundary view"

YOUR CHURCH'S FINANCES

Now that the books for 2017 have been closed I can tell you that last year your Parochial Church Council (PCC) raised a total of £36,509. This was broken down as follows:

- £22,365 in Collections including the Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC;
- £3,255 in Donations;
- £5,811 from fees from weddings and funerals, receipts from our parish magazine and from donations from the after-service coffee (our Operating Activities);
- £4,602 from our various Fund-Raising events and
- £476 in investment income.

The expenses for 2017 aggregated £30,942 the details of which will be set out in our Annual Report which will be available two weeks before our Annual Meeting scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, April 18th.

Therefore, the headline result for 2017 was that our receipts exceeded expenses by £5,567. This was the result of a lot of hard work and effort exemplified by the amount of money raised through the many fund-raising activities we hosted last year and the careful husbandry of our expenses.

This surplus is the good news, but is not the whole story. Last year your PCC was only in a position to pay £19,000 towards our Parish Share rather than the £25,774 requested by the Diocese of Portsmouth. Parish Share covers the costs of clergy, both working and retired, clergy training, development funding and all of the many mission, discipleship and ministry initiatives undertaken in our Diocese.

Unfortunately, this is the sixth year we have been unable to pay our full Parish Share. It was the intention of your PCC to make an additional payment to the Diocese out of the 2017 surplus. We changed our minds when it became apparent we would have to draw down heavily on our reserves in 2018 to fund the removal of asbestos from the boiler room and to buy and fit a new boiler.

At the end of last year your PCC controlled net assets of £46,728. This may seem a large amount but of this £25,994 is restricted in its use (for example, £14,142 of this amount can only be used for maintaining the Parish Room). Your PCC, therefore, controls General Reserves of £20,734 which is not a particularly large buffer for unanticipated expenses when you consider how much we are anticipating drawing on our reserves this year. In 2018 your PCC has budgeted expenditure of £50,504 (a large increase on 2017) including £15,000 to be spent on church maintenance and a Parish Share contribution of £25,526 if we are to pay the full amount requested.

Unfortunately, based upon the average amount we receive in Collections (or Giving) during the year we do not, once again, anticipate being able to meet our Parish Share obligation, even after budgeting on drawing down £6,000 from our reserves.

The issue of the fairness of the Parish Share system and how costs are allocated between individual Parishes has been discussed ad infinitum in PCC meetings for the last ten years and I do not intend to further expound on this issue here. That said, where we are open to question is on our average level of Giving which is 29% lower than the average across the Diocese.

In 2017 we had an average Sunday adult congregation of 49. If we divide the Collections plus Gift Aid received last year by this figure it works out at an average of £8.61 per person, per week. As you would expect some people gave more and some less. If we were able to increase this average level of Giving to match the Diocesan average we would be able to play our full part in spreading the Word of God, in our Parish, around the Island and the Diocese of Portsmouth.

I understand that not everyone will be in a position to increase their level of Giving and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity, both in terms of the amount of time you give to the Church as well as money.

To address the issue of our level of Giving requires the participation of the whole St Blasius Church family. We have to get together and discuss Stewardship and understand the importance of giving as part of our Christian faith.

Every Parish is encouraged to have a Stewardship Programme on a periodic basis to provide the opportunity to consider the bountiful blessings we have received from God and the level of support we each provide to the Church. The timing of such a programme for St. Blasius will be discussed by your PCC and further information will be provided to our congregation as soon as plans are put in place.

In the meantime I will keep you all updated on the financial position of our Parish and I look forward to answering any questions you may have on our finances either before or at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April.

Bob Crawley, Honorary Treasurer

February 5, 2018

Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings.

Archibald Alexander



WINGS OF EAGLES

**MOVIE
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Looking up to heaven

Wings of Eagles continues the true story of Eric Liddell, beyond the end of the Oscar-winning classic *Chariots of Fire*. It draws us into the heart of this ordinary man, who did extraordinary things. Without a professional coach, and with an ungainly style in which he looked up to heaven, Eric had won Olympic gold. But he then turned down opportunities for continued fame and fortune, choosing instead to go to China as a missionary. There, he became an ordinary teacher at a school for students in the city of Tianjin, but he also had an extraordinary passion to reach and teach those in the poorer villages.



When the Japanese invaded, Eric turned down opportunities to escape, choosing instead to stay with the people he had been called to serve. So, he devoted himself to teaching the children in the Weih sien internment camp where he was imprisoned. Even when the British government brokered his release in a prisoner exchange, he arranged for a pregnant woman to take his place.



Told from the perspective of a sceptical Chinese friend and honestly portraying his struggles, the film conveys the ordinariness of this man, affectionately known as 'Uncle Eric', who did extraordinary things. Fittingly, it takes its title from words on the memorial headstone which was placed on Eric's grave after it was rediscovered in 1989: 'They shall mount up with wings as eagles'. The biblical verse from which this is quoted begins: 'Those who trust in the Lord...' It is not a promise available just to special people, but to everyone. This verse, and this film, can inspire us all to do extraordinary things if we will look up to heaven, as Eric did when he ran his race.

**ETHOS
MEDIA**.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



ST BLASIUS CHURCH DUTY ROTA'S

WELCOME ROTA	
10.15am SERVICES (unless otherwise mentioned)	
4 March	Jenny & Peter Wright.
11 March	Karen & Norman Cave.
18 March *	John Gilland & Ces Tibbitts.
25 March	Pat Dean & Hazel Knowler.

Welcome arrangements for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on March 29th and March 30th will be decided on the day.

Would one of the two Side-persons please position themselves below the altar rail during Communion to both guide and assist Communicants if required.

* Matins

N.B.: If you are unavailable on your allotted day please arrange for someone to replace you.

Thank you all for your help and co-operation, Hazel.

FLOWER ARRANGERS	
2 March	No flowers during Lent.
11 March	Mothering Sunday - Posies: Jenny, Pat & Jo.
16 March	No flowers during Lent.
23 March	No flowers during Lent.
31 March	Flower Set-up: All arrangers

CLEANING ROTA	
2 March	Norman & Karen Cave.
9 March	Annette Richards & Moira Erwin.
16 March	Jenny Wright & Beverley Taylor.
23 March	Angela Norris & Peter Hyde.
29 March	Jo & Brian Hardy-Bishop.

The Church Wardens and PCC would like to thank you for your continued help and support.

SHANKLIN WEATHER REPORT JANUARY 2018



The Sunshine records for Shanklin have been suspended. The average amount of sunshine for January is 69.8 hours.

January 2018 was the 8th warmest in the last 35 years, equal with 1999 and 2005. January had a mean temperature of 7.3°C. The warmest day was the 2nd when 12.8°C was recorded. The coldest day of the month was the 6th with a recorded maximum temperature of 5.4°C. The coldest night was overnight on the 29th/30th when the temperature fell to 0.5°C. The highest overnight temperature was recorded overnight 23rd/24th when 10.4°C was recorded.

The rainfall for January amounted to 113.8mm. It was the 16th wettest January in the last 35 years. The days with the highest totals were the 14th with 12.7mm, 21st and the 24th both with 11.9mm, 15th with 10.9mm and the 2nd with 8.8mm. The period 1st till the 10th was the driest with just 27.0mm of rain 25% of the months expected rainfall. The average amount of rain for January is 106.0mm. Rain was recorded on 24 days the average is 18. A rain day is defined as 0.2mm or above.



Clive Cooper

Shanklin Weather Observer