

the Link

The Parish Magazine for the parishes of
St Catherine and **Holy Trinity** Ventnor and **St Boniface** Bonchurch



MARCH 2019

The Ministry Team
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Hilary Davis	Reader
Jenny Hopkins-Holder	Reader
Gill Smith	Reader

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Mary Bell - Jo Nicholson - Sally Fitzgerald
Janet Kay - Joel Whybrew

Churchwardens

St Catherine's	John Bagshawe and Adrian Pinnock
Holy Trinity	Mark Bell and Jo Nicholson
St Boniface	Philip Kennerly and George Westcott

Morning Prayer

Tuesday at 9.30am and Thursday at 9.15am at Holy Trinity
Wednesday at 9.30am at St Catherine's
Friday at 9.00am St Boniface Parish Church

Midweek Services

St Catherine's - Wednesday - 10.30am Holy Communion
Holy Trinity - Thursday - 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday Services

Please see inside Link for details of Sunday Services

Ventnor & Bonchurch Parish website address
www.ventnorcofe2.btck.co.uk
Email: ventnorcofe@hotmail.co.uk

If I were at a quiz and were asked the date Spring begins, I would give the answer I learnt at school -21st March. The Weather people have now changed this to the 1st day of March. How confusing! Is this down to Climate Change? But whichever date we take, March is associated with Spring and new life.

In Britain we have four seasons, and winter can bring experiences of cold and even snowy weather. But below the ice and snow, beneath the dead and decomposing plants of the previous season, are the seeds that will burst forth with life. In Winter we tend to shut ourselves in; the days are shorter and darker, and we can become isolated; some people become sad and lonely. Our personal lives can become dreary, sad and desolate, in need of warmth and renewal. Some people suffer utter isolation and loneliness. Then, as days grow longer, lighter and brighter, life can seem full of possibilities.

March is a month pregnant with such possibilities. The church has given us two very special festivals; the 19th March is St Joseph's Day, and 25th of March, when we celebrate the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, 9 months before the birth of Jesus. Without Mary's 'yes' to God's request for her to carry Jesus, and Joseph's protection of the Holy Family, there would never have been any festival of Christmas. Then March gives us Lent, which begins this year on 2nd March, the 40 days which lead up to the high point of the Christian year, Easter.

Christians believe that Jesus, completely God and completely human, was 'born to die' in order to renew our relationship with God through his death and resurrection. Lent is a 6 week period pregnant with possibilities, serious and yet joyful, with the anticipation of the Easter celebrations as we undertake our time of spiritual Spring-cleaning.

Lent is a positive time. It is not so much a time of 'giving up' but rather of 'taking up' – making more time in busy lives for prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting and works of love (sometimes called charity). Churches often have 'hunger lunches' to support charities like Christian Aid. Lent gives us time to step back from the busyness of life so that we can draw closer to God. Then many of our Lenten disciplines, centred on love, will then spill over into the rest of the year. Lives that were in need of warmth

are renewed in love, and some people in utter isolation and loneliness are drawn into fellowship with others.

As days grow longer, lighter and brighter, and the beauties of nature spring forth, life is indeed full of possibilities and hope, as God 'renews the face of the earth'. (from Psalm 104). God is always at work to bring refreshment and renewal. Every winter is temporary, even someone's spiritual winter. And the seeds of God's love, planted by the Holy Spirit are ever ready to spring forth – if we are only willing. Spring flowers like primroses and glorious daffodils remind us of God's love.

May March be a month of renewal for you. JH-H

Clocks go Forward 31st MARCH

Clocks Change



Loose an hour!

The Wesley Clan

Looking at potential subjects for this month's look at composers brought the suggestion that I look at the Wesleys. This was provoked by the choir having sung a hymn written by Charles Wesley set to the tune 'Savannah'. However, it was easier said than done. How so? I hear you say. Surely there must be oodles of information about such a famous family. And that is just the problem. Not only is there oodles of information but there are so many of them, and they all seem to be called Samuel, John or Charles. Sorting out which one is which can be quite challenging, but the two I wanted to concentrate on first of all are the two brothers that most people will be familiar with - John (born in 1703) and Charles (born in 1707). John was the elder of the two, and was the fifteenth of nineteen children born to his parents Samuel and Susannah. Samuel was an ordained priest in the Church of England, and John eventually followed his father into the priesthood, being ordained in 1728. Charles was four years younger, and was the eighteenth child, so you can do the maths, as they say. Both John and Charles went to Oxford and Charles was also ordained, in 1735. Their upbringing was very strict and religious instruction featured strongly in their intensive education. Their mother tested them each day before their midday meal, and also again before prayers in the evening, and once a week they were interviewed on their own by her, for the purpose of their spiritual development. At Oxford, Charles founded a club for the purpose of religious study, and John later became its leader. They were clearly close as brothers although they did not entirely share the same views on religious practice.

A significant event in their adult lives was a trip to the English colony founded in Georgia (in what is now the United States). They were invited by the founder of the colony to travel to Savannah: John was to be the minister of the newly formed parish and Charles was appointed as Secretary of Indian Affairs to the colony and chaplain to a nearby garrison and satellite colony. They left England in 1735 and arrived in March 1736. However, things did not go well for either of them.

It seems that on the ship travelling over to America the brothers had met a group of Moravian Christians and had been very impressed with their spirituality and their use of hymn singing. John realised for the first time how important music can be in this context and set about putting together a hymnal and psalter for use in the colony of Savannah. However the Church Elders were not amused and John was charged with introducing 'unauthorized' hymns. Furthermore, he fell in love with one of the local

woman, but declined to marry since he favoured celibacy. Following her marriage to someone else, he upset his parishioners by refusing her communion one Sunday as she had not given the advance notice required by the Book Of Common Prayer (it is still officially required to give notice 'some time the day before' to the Curate, but who knew that?!). Legal proceedings were instigated against him and he fled the colony in December 1737. Charles lasted a mere four months in the colony, becoming ill and having been largely rejected by the settlers, possibly due to his and John's preferred take on Christianity which favoured a more primitive approach. But it was probably this trip which focused their minds on the true meaning of Christianity and both were 'converted' on their return to a simpler and more methodical approach, with the use of hymns as a means of religious instruction. 21 May 1738 marks the date of Charles' conversion, and having been inspired by a scriptural passage he wrote his first hymn the next day: 'And can it be'. This was the first of over 6,500 hymns that Charles Wesley wrote, for he believed hymns were a means of teaching theology. He composed an average of three hymns a week. They covered every area of theology as well as every season of the liturgical year. John Wesley's conversion soon followed and both of them became zealous preachers. They were determined that the largely forgotten masses would hear the Gospel, so they preached everywhere and anywhere - mostly in the open. This kind of thing just wasn't done in respectable church circles then in England. But the message and the music of the Wesleys reached the desperate and downtrodden working classes in England and Wales, and it has been speculated that the ministry of the Wesleys may have enabled England to avoid a bloody revolution such as occurred in France in that same century. John Wesley published his first 'Methodist' hymnbook in 1780.

The brothers' travels around Britain are probably well known to you but Charles' health prevented him from peripatetic preaching after about 1765 and he settled in London. He considered himself a member of the Church of England until his dying day (in 1788) and was buried from St Marylebone Parish Church in London. John's theology gradually distanced him from the established church and, although he remained within it until his own death in 1791, he had by then established the 'Methodist' system in both Britain and also in America which would outlive him and provide a lasting memorial of his life's work. He was entombed in his own chapel at City Road, London. Next time I will take a look at various Samuels!

Helen Slade

CHERUBIM

Father Time has now retired, Ray Sunshine, takes his place,
We see great love and hopefulness upon Ray Sunshine's face.
He will be full of happiness of Love and Joy and Peace,
May our love for one another be firm and never cease.

Billy's friend, 'Ray Sunshine' will enjoy a happy name.
He will be good, be sure of that, all Cherubs are the same.
Full of love and innocence, capable and pure,
to guide us safely through the year, of that you can be sure.

Look forward to some lovely things, Flowers, Fruit and Trees,
the sunshine and the showers, March winds, Summer breeze.
New creatures, all creation, Animals and Birds,
So great is God Almighty, Well,...."I run out of words !"

Often we are spellbound as God's wonders will unfold,
The wonders of this world are here all shining bright as gold,
This new year with its Blessings. and many, many things
all help us in our happiness with 'Ray Sunshine's shining wings.

Yes, All God's gifts are wonderful, be thankful for them all,
Give Him Praise for everything as we hear the cuckoo call.
We must praise Him for the seasons through-out the coming year,
and our closeness to our fellow beings, of whom we hold so dear.

Our loved ones, ever close to us, an asset we should treasure,
we must never take for granted, accept them with good measure.
Let us all be happy, Cherub Billy has a friend to help him every day
Listen well and they will cheer you all along life's way



UNRELATED RELATIONS.

I am grandfather of six wonderful grand children and GREAT grand father to ten equally wonderful GREAT grandchildren,

My dearest wish is to get them all together at any one time. even at Christmas times it seems to be an impossibility, they are scattered all over the U.K. they live in Southampton, Eastleigh, Havant, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and even as far away as Telford in Shropshire. Some of them are to be found in wales enjoying the snow of the welsh mountains occasionally.

There must be many members of the older generation, the same as myself who experience the same situation regarding distance caused by work etc.

I do travel to see them as much as possible if they can't visit me.

However, I do experience yet another nicety: within minutes of meeting dozens of children and young people of all ages whom I have never met before, I am called 'granddad' by all of them whether I am or not. This is a clear sense of trust.

It seems so natural to them that I should be known by all as 'granddad' so that puts me in the delightful position of being an unrelated relation of the highest degree. What a wonderful qualification. Perhaps I am entitled to have the letters: G.G-DAD after my name. = (Great Grand-Dad.)

We silver haired brigade have so much to be thankful for whether we are G.Dad or G.Mum. Be really proud and don't forget that second 'G' it is so nice to be a 'Great' ."

Please accept my My love as always from Ted. G.G.Dad.

Trinity Folk



Trinity

Church Hall

7.30pm - 10pm

15th MARCH

6th March - **ASH WEDNESDAY**: mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

BONCHURCH EVENTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As ever there will be a Coffee Morning on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The next one will be on Tuesday February 5th. The Sewing Bees will also continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

REMINDER

The next date for your diary (apart from the regular coffee mornings and sewing bees) will be our EASTER FAIR to be held in the Parish church from 10 am to 12 noon on **SATURDAY APRIL 13th.**

On Tuesday February 19th we were once again treated to a marvellous concert given by the Brighton Youth Orchestra String Ensemble. The standard was every bit as high as last year if not higher. It is impossible not to be impressed by such a young ensemble making such a beautiful sound. Their conductor, Andrew Sherwood gave us all sorts of fascinating tit bits about the pieces they played and the composers. His enthusiasm was infectious to both audience and ensemble alike. The concert was quite well attended and much enjoyed by all who came. They will be paying us a third visit next year and I hope that even more people will come and enjoy such a special treat. (We provide pretty yummy refreshments too!)



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st MARCH

Holy Trinity Church. Ventnor. 3pm

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.



The Fruit of the Spirit is Love

Joy is LOVE singing.

Peace is LOVE resting.

Patience is LOVE stretched out.

Kindness is LOVE with hands open wide.

Goodness is LOVE being obedient.

Faithfulness is LOVE holding on.

Gentleness is LOVE relating to others.

Self-control is LOVE within.

Anon.



Carisbrooke Priory

Open Door Speakers for March

Open Door Meeting every Thursday at 12 Noon

7th March	Leisa Potter (Communion)
14th March	Bob White
21st March	Stella Hardiman
28th March	Bob White

A light lunch is available after the service

Activities @ The Priory

Poetry Past & Present with Anne Linington Friday 15th March – 10.30-11.45 a.m.

Music and Melodies with June Cox Thursday 21st March – 2.00-3.30 p.m.

Crochet Café Every Friday from 11.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

Prayer Ministry available by arrangement – Please contact the Priory for an appointment

QUIET DAY

“WERE YOU THERE?” Monday 11th March 9.30 a.m. – 2.45 p.m.

Refreshments will be available Please bring a packed lunch

Suggested Donation - £5.00

JUST LISTEN!

Listening Course

Thursday 14th and Thursday 28th March 2019

2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Priory on 01983 523354

Phone: 01983 523354

Email: opendoor@carisbrookepriory.org.uk

Website: www.carisbrookepriory.org.uk

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Teacher

Jericho

lawyer

good

eternal

inn

Jerusalem

priest

strength

heart

Samaria

donkey

love

Bible

dangerous

question

right

mind

robbers

hurt

neighbour

paid

help

soul

Ventnor Townswomen's Guild

AGM 20th March - 2.15pm

Resident's Lounge. Knights Court, High Street, Ventnor.

Secretary - Mrs J Walters - 855892

Social Studies Group

Spring Party - 4th March

Monday 2.15pm

Held in the Resident's lounge at Byrnhill Grove, Park Avenue.

For more information contact Mrs Barbara Joyner - 651577

£1 per meeting including refreshments.

Monday Evening 7.45pm

Contact Jenny Holder 852575



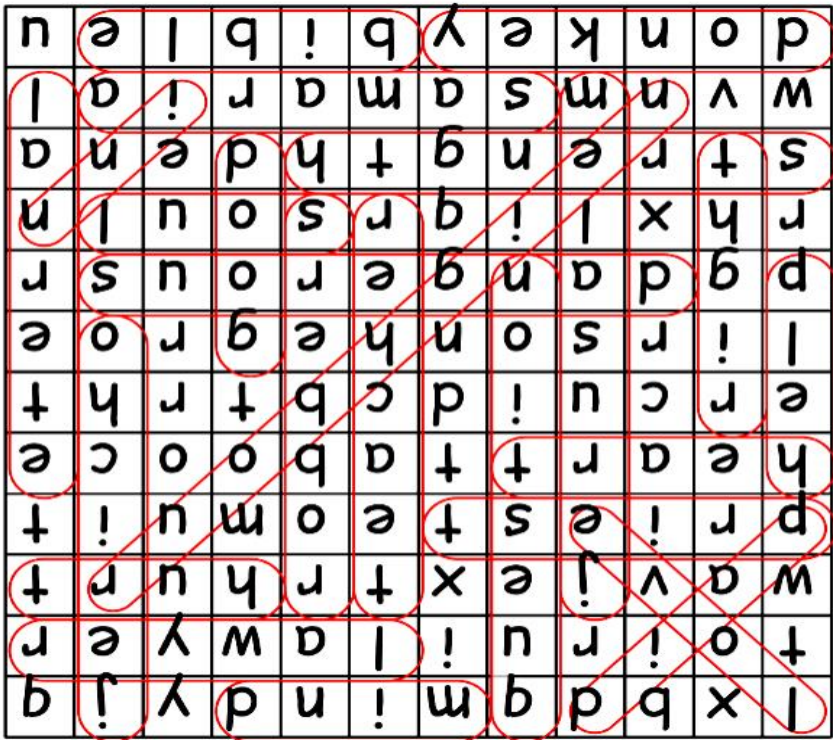
Tuesday Evening - 8.00pm

At Mick and Nava Young's St Andrews, Belgrave Road. 852680

EMMAUS GROUP - Thursdays 7pm.

The Hub. St Catherine's Church.

Contact: Nicola Pinnock on 01983 852412



Handbell Ringing

Handbell ringing is a great way to make music in a small group, without necessarily being able to read music.

Our team play at Church events, village coffee mornings and carol services. We regularly play in the Brighstone Christmas tree festival and will undertake fun workshops for groups such as the WI.

The Southern Bells handbell team meet weekly in St Lawrence from 5pm to 6.30pm on Mondays.

New members welcome, no experience required.

For information please contact Pauline Stephens on 854672 or email paulinesteps@gmail.com

The Hub Coffee Shop

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE COFFEE SHOP

Can you spare two hours, once a month, to help in The Coffee Shop in the Hub at St Catherine's Church?

We need more volunteers for Saturdays.
Training will be given.

Contact Janet on 853901 or visit the Hub.

FOR SALE

A few paintings by Duncan Radcliffe are available for sale in the Hub Coffee shop in St Catherine's Church. They will be priced from £40 to £60 with half of the money going to the Churchyard enhancement project.



Don't forget to pick up your **free** copy of the new look

@CofEPortsmouth. Issued quarterly.



2nd March

3pm - 5pm

St Francis Academy - Upper Ventnor

"Come and share a meal with us"

Children must be accompanied by a parent/
guardian or carer.

Do please tell any families you know about this

Free event.

Next event - April 6th

Orpheus Singers'

30th March 7.30pm

St Catherine's Church,

Tickets - Available on door.

www.orpheussingers.org.uk



First Thursday of the month at 9am

St Catherine's Church.

A warm welcome to breakfast and a friendly chat.

For further information contact John 852575

TRITONE SINGERS **8th MARCH - 7.30pm**

St Catherine's Church

Tritone Singers concert at St Catherine's Church on **FRIDAY 8 March** at 7.30pm. We will be performing the Faure Requiem & Cantique de Jean Racine, Elgar Lux Aeterna (choral setting of 'Nimrod') & Ave Verum plus other sacred works.

Tickets are £8 and children free, available online or from any member of Tritone.

Ventnor - January weather.

Rainfall of 35.1 mm was only 45% of the average of 78.3 mm. The first 2 weeks had no rain at all. The wettest day was the 31st with 11.6 mm. Some rain fell on 9 days. The mean temperature of 5.7 C was colder than the average of 6.2 C (43F). The warmest day was the 1st with 12.3 C (54F) and the coldest night was the 31st with -0.6 C.

Thanks to Mike Wood for our weather information for Ventnor.

Hub Cafe at St Catherine's Church

**Monday to Saturday 10:30-12:30
(except Wednesday 11-12:30).**

Coffee, Cake, Chat, Companionship

Friends of St Catherine's Church

FASHION SHOW FRIDAY 31st MAY

Time to be arranged.

To be followed on SATURDAY 1st JUNE

Of a SALE OF ITEMS Time to be arranged

Articles for the **APRIL LINK** should be received by **MARCH 11th** please. You can hand it in at the Hub or email it to Joan Garlick at **ventnorcofe@hotmail.co.uk**

Hand written reports/articles are accepted if you **do not** have access to a computer.

Worship

March 3rd The Sunday next before Lent

9.30a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church

10.45a.m. "Come and See" Café Church, St Catherine's Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

March 6th Ash Wednesday

7.30p.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes,

Holy Trinity Church

March 10th The First Sunday of Lent

9.30a.m. Morning Worship, Holy Trinity Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Catherine's Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

6.30p.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church

March 17th The Second Sunday of Lent

9.30a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church

10.45a.m. Morning Worship, St Catherine's Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

6.30p.m. Celtic Praise, St Catherine's Church

March 24th The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Catherine's Church

10.45a.m. Morning Worship, St Boniface Church

March 31st The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

9.30a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church

10.45a.m. Special Mothering Sunday Service, St Catherine's Church

10.45a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Bible Readings

March 3rd The Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 34:29 to end

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

St Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

March 10th The First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

St Luke 4:1-13

March 17th The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

St Luke 13:31-end

March 24th The Third Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

St Luke 13:1-9

March 31st The Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

St Luke 2:33-35

BEREAVEMENT GROUP....Can we help you?

We are aware that there are a number of people who have been bereaved and might like someone to talk to.

If this is YOU or someone you know, please contact any of the Bereavement Group from St Catherine's, Holy Trinity and St Boniface, by telephoning 01983 853729 or visit the Hub at St Catherine's any morning between 10.30 am and 12.30pm. If you'd rather leave a note, there's a box in the Coffee Shop. Anything you wish to discuss will be treated with absolute confidentiality.

PRAYER TIME

Each SATURDAY afternoon between 1pm and 2pm in the HUB, St Catherine's Church. For more information contact Ann Allen

PRAYER CHAIN

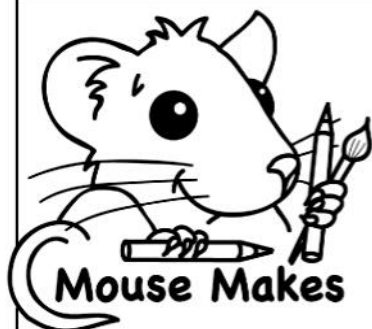
Many of you especially newcomers to the Church may not know about **THE PRAYER CHAIN** which has been going for a very long time.

It is made up with a prayerful group of people who pass on confidential prayers one to another.

If anyone has a confidential or urgent prayer for themselves or other people, whether members of the Church or not, then they can ring me on 01983 731142 or email me on

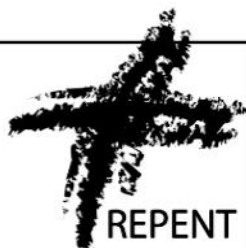
e.a.radcliffe@hotmail.co.uk

Ann Radcliffe



During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

Lent is the name given to the 40 days before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.



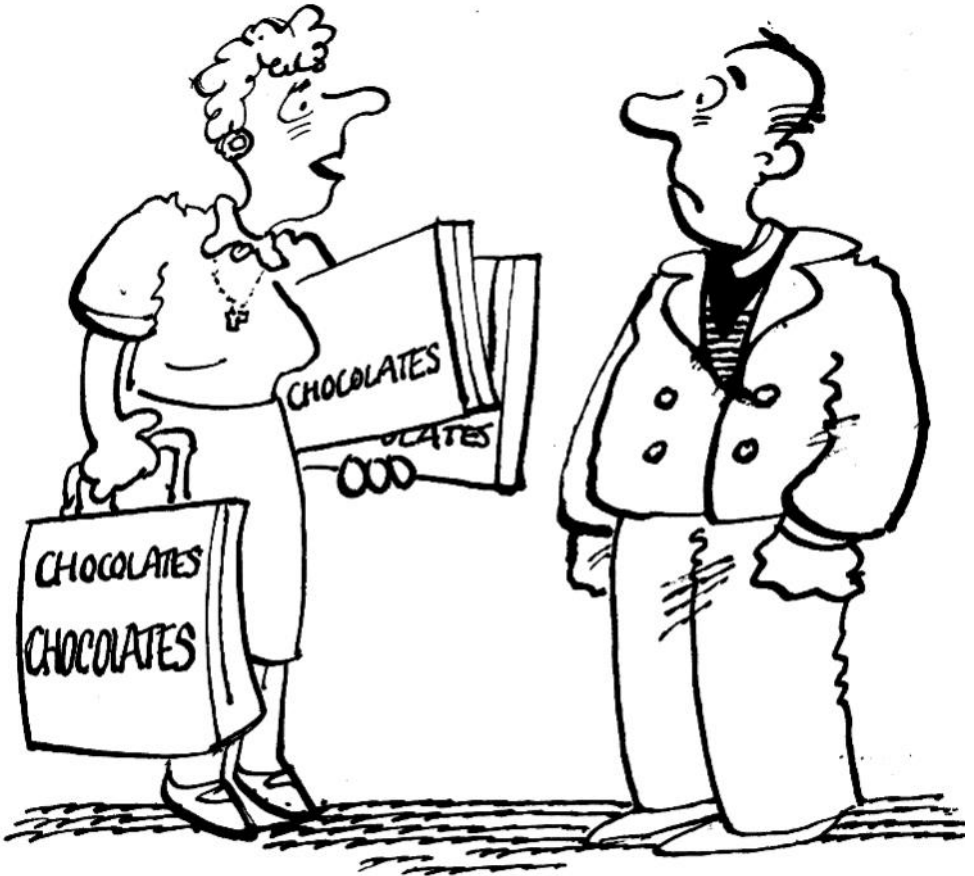
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Can you find these words in the word search above?

LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS
 JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST
 DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP
 PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE
 BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD

The production cost of The LINK is subsidised by
The HUB. Please give it your support.

www.ventnorcofe2.btck.co.uk



I am stockpiling, just in case...