

Thought for the Week

In his teaching Jesus always urges us to growth, to maturity in our knowledge of God, to move forward willingly, to prepare ourselves for a truly Christian life. To advance sometimes means leaving things behind in order to do so, and to find in our losses a closer unity with Jesus, a greater freedom to become the people God had intended from our birth. We need to try to accept what is, instead of what might be, or could be; and to try to believe in what will be if we dare proceed in the way given to us, as willingly as we can and with trust that God will take us through to another and better place. This goes for all the losses of our lives, as well as the acceptance of our ultimate loss, on this earth, that which will see us safely home, our eternal lives saved, as Jesus promised. We are as much a part of the whole mystery of creation as the fishes, the insects and the martyrs who gave their lives for the common good. The surrender of ourselves to God's will and our willing acceptance of the responsibilities of discipleship are just as pleasing to the God who makes all things new in us, too.

Intercessions

In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them

Jennifer Lane, Liz Galton, Sue Fisher, Berna, Daphne Carty, Snowy, Joy from Hillrise, Joan Pritchard, Beth Hirst, Lionel Hall, Mark, Lorna Sturney, Becky, Joyce Upward, Joseph, Strat Liddiard, Karen, Lucy, Jenny, Betty Tripp, Derek White, Tracy Nicholls, Alice Pink, Barbara Shearman, Loretta, Paul Hanscombe, Stanley and Gill Gibbons, Ivy Webb, Crawford, Ralph and Zara Toop, Zac, The Lenaerts family, Jasmine, Michael, Alison, Carol and Don Knott.

We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends especially

Joyce James and Emma.

Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

This week's Bible Text

"Now my heart is troubled—and what shall I say? Shall I say, 'Father, do not let this hour come upon me?' But that is why I came—so that I might go through this hour of suffering. Father, bring glory to your name!" (*John 12: 27-28*)

The Prayer

Glorious God,
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Week Ahead

Tues 20	1.00 pm	Lent Group St M
	7.30 pm	Rock Choir rehearsal St M
Weds 21	10.30 am	Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts
	11.00 am	Bellringing AS
Thurs 22	7.30 pm	Bellringing St M and AS
	7.30 pm	Lent Group in Church AS
Fri 23	3.00 pm	Kneeler Group AS

Next Sunday 25th March

Palm Sunday

10.30 am	Holy Communion CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Altogether Worship Palm Sunday St M
4.15 pm	Palm Sunday Service AS

Jeremiah 31. 31-34
Hebrews 5. 5-10
John 12. 20-33

GNB OT 752
GNB NT 267
GNB NT 129

Notices

Benefice Service of Light – 31 March 2018

Christ Church Emery Down

The time of the service has been changed to 8 pm (from 7 pm) so that it can begin in darkness before the light of Christ shines for us all. –

Emery Down and Bank Village Hall – Grand Reopening by Dame Esther Rantzen on 21 April 2018

The Trustees wish to have a record of the hall's history for its Grand Re-opening and need your help. It is known that the hall was built at the behest of the Misses Chamberlain of Westons, Bank for the newly formed Emery Down and Bank Village WI. The inaugural president was Alice Hargreaves and it is believed that this WI branch was one of the first to be formed in the country. Unfortunately, the records have disappeared. I would welcome pictures or information about any events at the hall (WI or not) - memories, photos, press cuttings or stories of activities - or if anyone can put me in touch with someone who might be of help. Please contact 02380 282842 or angela.trend@outlook.com

Lent Course.

1-2 pm on Tuesdays until Easter.

Live Lent: "Let your Light Shine" is the initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

If you wish to do so, please arrive early at 12.30 pm and bring your lunch – coffee provided. *This replaces the Tuesday Evening Home Group which will start again at Whinwood after Easter.*

All Saints' Church Minstead.

Lent Group in Church.

7.30 pm on Thursdays in Lent; not including Maundy Thursday.

Studying a book called: "The Things He Carried." by Stephen Cottrell. Meditations for Lent and Holy Week. Published by SPCK.

St Michael's Churchyard Spring Clean

7th April from 10 am volunteers needed to tidy and clear church grounds and clear the ivy off the Church. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring tools.

Training for Open the Book

Thursday 5th April 9.30 am in St Michael's. Everyone welcome.

Benefice Office Hours

Monday and Fri 10 am-2 pm

Wed 10 am-3.30 pm

Thu 1.30-3.30 pm

And if we are not in please leave a message and we will get back to you. 8028 3175

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD
Trusting Christ Transforming Church
Transforming Community

18th March 2018

5th Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our gathering today!

If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us benefice@newforestparishes.com or look us up on Facebook, or the website (www.newforestparishes.com).

Today's Services

9.30 am	Holy Communion AS
11.00 am	Holy Communion and coffee St M
11.00 am	Visiting Bellringers AS
6.00pm	Sunday at Six CC

Collect

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;
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. Amen.

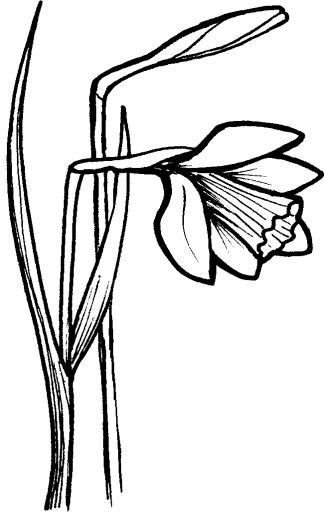
Today's Readings

Jeremiah 31. 31-34 **GNB OT 752**
God never forgets the promises made to Israel and the proof is the addition of a new covenant, a new intimacy with the living God which will bring new hope and change lives.

Hebrews 5. 5-10 **GNB NT 267**
Jesus is the perfect high priest of the new covenant. His mediation and sacrifice of himself for our sins supersede all previous ministers and sacrifices. In him all things are made new.

John 12. 20-33 **GNB NT 129**
It is in letting go of what we once thought of as real life and allowing God to lead and direct our future that we may die to the past and be reborn in this life and into eternity.

April Gatherings



1st April Easter Day

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am Holy Communion CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee
St M

8th April

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship
St M
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm Evensong AS

15th April

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee
St M
6.00pm Sunday at Six CC

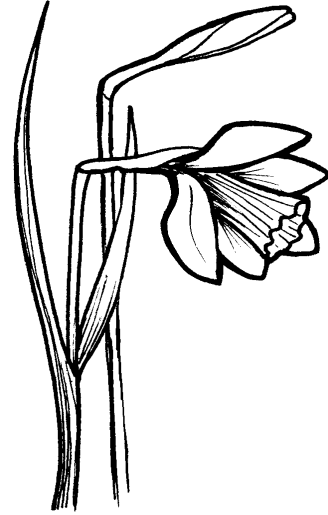
22nd April

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship
St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

29th April

10.30 am Morning Worship CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship
St M
10.30 am Service of worship and Music
AS

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