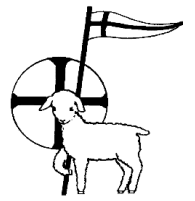


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 21st February

The First Sunday of Lent

St Mark was the first of the Gospels to be written and it is by far the shortest. This means that it is very fast-moving, with events coming thick and fast, linked by words such as 'suddenly' and sometimes a series of 'and then ...' This gives it a real immediacy, urgency and excitement.

Today's reading is no exception. It's quite astonishing how much ground is covered, how many key events are recounted, in the space of just 130 words. The concise nature of Mark's account means that we don't have as much detail as in the others. Both Matthew and Luke list the three temptations of Jesus, temptations which fall into three categories which continue to plague us today. The first, and most straightforward category, is the temptation generated by our bodily appetites and needs, the temptation to put our own desires ahead of the needs of others. Then comes the temptation to feed our ego, with its lust for power and domination. Finally comes the most subtle and in many ways the most dangerous temptation, that of spiritual pride. We may overcome the first two, only to congratulate ourselves on how well we are doing and how spiritually superior we are to our neighbour.

This painting, by the Canadian artist Michael O'Brien, is full of symbolism, illustrating the way temptation, the devil, can completely overwhelm us and take over our every aspect of our lives.



Jesus overcame temptation by appealing to Scripture. He relied on God to keep him on the straight and narrow. If we, too, turn to God, he will strengthen us to resist temptation and remain strong in the faith.

Canon Judy Anderson

Today's Service

9.30am Parish Communion Online via Zoom

President: The Revd Tina Fox Preacher: The Revd Mark Hayter Music: Sally Hayter

Hymns: Forty days and forty nights; What a friend we have in Jesus; Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us

Mondays and Wednesdays

Art for Lent: A Lent Course on Zoom

Our Lent course, led by members of the Nadder Valley Ministry Team, continues on Mondays at 11.00am, repeated on Wednesdays at 6.15pm. All welcome – no expertise necessary! It's not too late to join – contact Revd Mark Hayter: revmarkh@icloud.com 01722 785176

Next Sunday, 28th February

The Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am Parish Communion

Online via Zoom

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38

President: The Revd Elaine Brightwell

Preacher: Canon Judy Anderson

Public Worship and Private Prayer

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the church remains closed for public worship for the time being.

Services continue on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84966332040> Password: 039012 - details on the website.

The church remains open for private prayer and contemplation daily between approx. 9.00am and 4.00pm.

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Bridget Jupp, a much-loved member of our congregation and choir, who died peacefully in Salisbury District Hospital earlier this month.

The Revd Juliette Hulme, Team Vicar
Canon Judy Anderson, Parish Administrator

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The First Sunday of Lent

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

The New Testament Reading: I Peter 3.18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel: Mark 1.9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

For your prayers

Please pray for all who are suffering in any way as a result of the virus, and for those who are anxious or lonely. Please pray for all frontline workers at this difficult time, especially the staff of Salisbury District Hospital. Please pray for the planning of our deanery team visit to Cueibet, in the hope that it may take place in the autumn, and for all pastors receiving our support.



Lent Boxes

Our donations this Lent will go to the British Red Cross (www.redcross.org.uk), to support their international work during the Covid-19 pandemic. For those who are out and about and able to collect one, there are boxes in church; alternatively, why not designate a box at home for this purpose?

Coffee Time!

Fancy a cuppa and a chat? Feeling isolated? We meet on Zoom every Friday morning for an hour or so starting at 10.00 am. Hosted by the Revd Joanna Naish. Just click on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81306923058?pwd=U2VBWDhodkppZDkrdEhuUEc0aFpYdz09> Passcode: 567559

or phone 0203 481 5237

Meeting ID: 813 0692 3058

Passcode: 567559

If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support.

Members of our team of Lay Pastoral Assistants are happy to chat on the phone if you are feeling lonely – contact the co-ordinator, Revd Mark Hayter, on 01722 785176.

A list of additional sources of support is published with the newsletter on the first Sunday of each month.



Giving to the church

Thank you very much to those who continue to give regularly to the church. If you haven't committed to regular giving, why not consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme or setting up a standing order? Details from Paul Naish, email sjtgiftaid@gmail.com tel 01747 870731 mob 07587 072900. Cheques payable to Tisbury PCC.