

## Lent Groups

The Lent groups are a great opportunity to meet with a small group of other church members to share in fellowship, bible study and prayer. Each week we will consider together the bible passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans from the previous Sunday worship. (This will be an extension of our usual Growing Roots groups.)

There will be one group that meets in person in the church on Thursday afternoons; the other groups will meet in the evenings online via Zoom. Please do join us!

If you would like to join a group or to know more then do please speak to Rev Elsie Blair-Chappell or Rev Ivor Lewis. If you are concerned about times and days then please do let us know.

### 10 March:

No excuse for not knowing God - Romans 1 v16-23

### 17 March

God's law is written in our hearts - Romans 2 v13-23

### 24 March

We all fall short of God's glory - Romans 3 v19-28

### 31 March

God is able to do whatever he promises - Romans 4 v20-25

### 7 April

God shows His great love for us - Romans 5 v1-11

# Worship for Lent

@St. Martin in the Bull Ring

## What is Lent?

The word Lent is rooted in the old English word leynte - springtime - literally 'lengthening' (of daylight hours).

Lent was originally a season in the Church when people were prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday. (Or when those who had committed serious sin were allowed to rejoin the church family for worship.) Over time the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study, repentance, and preparation for Easter. The 40 day length is a reminder of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, preparing for his ministry and being tempted by the devil.

Characteristically, Christians have committed more time for prayer, reading of the bible and study during Lent. It is also a season of self-examination, discipline and self-denial - hence the tradition of 'giving things up for Lent'. Rather than giving things up, for some it is an opportunity to do more to serve others, engage in acts of kindness and compassion, and to give generously.

The 40 days begin on Ash Wednesday and (excluding the Sundays) concludes at the end of Holy Week. Ashes are an ancient sign of repentance and for some Christians it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. Churches are usually kept bare without decoration or flowers. The Gloria in excelsis is not used.

The 4th Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday, is allowed as a day of relief from the disciplines but 5th Sunday, Passion Sunday, draws our attention ever closer to Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.

## Worship for Lent

### Ash Wednesday 2 March

12.30pm & 7.00pm

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ash

### Sunday 6 March

9.30am Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion

Theme: No excuse for not knowing God - Romans 1

### Sunday 13 March

9.30am Holy Communion

11am Morning Worship

Theme: God's law is written in our hearts - Romans 2

5.00pm - Choral Evensong - Lent 2

### Sunday 20 March

9.30am Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion

Theme: We all fall short of God's glory - Romans 3

### Sunday 27 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion

11am All-age worship

Theme: God is able to do whatever he promises - Romans 4

5.00pm - Choral Evensong - Lent 4

### Sunday 3 April - Passion Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion

Theme: God shows His great love for us - Romans 5

**Every Tuesday at 12.30pm** - Healing Service

**Every Thursday at 12.30pm** - Holy Communion