

This Week

Sunday 28 th	18:00	Evening Worship – St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers
	18:30	Taizé – St Francis, Littlemoor
Monday 29 th	09:30	Morning Prayer – St Andrews, Preston
Tuesday 1 st	19:30	Candlelit Evensong with Confirmation Course – St Andrews, Preston
Wed. 2 nd	10:00	Traditional Holy Communion [BCP] – St Andrews, Preston
	10:00	Holy Communion – St Laurence, Upwey
Thursday 3 rd	10:00	Holy Communion – St Nicholas, Broadway
	19:30	Prayer group – St Francis, Littlemoor
Friday 4 th	11:30	Said Holy Communion – St Francis, Littlemoor
	19:30	Candlelit Holy Communion with Healing Prayer – St Andrews, Preston

Sunday 6th

Bincombe	09:15	Holy Communion – Brian Ellis
Buckland	09:15	Holy Communion – Philip Elliott
Broadway	10:30	Holy Communion – Philip Elliott
Upwey	10:30	Holy Communion – Brian Ellis

Holy Days and Festivals

Tuesday 1 st	David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601
Wednesday 2 nd	Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672

www.theweytojesus.org.uk

Please send events and prayer updates to davidrparson@hotmail.com

Bincombe with Broadway; Upwey and Buckland Ripers Part of the Weymouth Ridgeway Benefice

Sunday 28th February 2016
The Third Sunday of Lent

The Prayer for Today

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

Old Testament	Isaiah 55 : 1 – 9
Psalm	Psalm 63 : 1 – 9
Epistle	1 Corinthians 10 : 1 – 13
Gospel	Luke 13 : 1 – 9

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In Our Prayers

- **We thank God for Philip as he embraces his ministry as our new Team Vicar.**
- **Our Church School, and Headteacher Mrs Helen Williams.**
- **Our Street Pastors & Prayer Pastors**
- **Food Banks & Christians against Poverty**
- **Healing on the Streets**
- **The Lantern Centre**

Remembering those who have passed into God's presence...

all those from our community, and their families in their grief.

Remembering the sick...

all in our community who suffer sickness.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Sunday 28 th	Church of England: Diocese of Peterborough Church of Ireland: Diocese of Meath & Kildare Diocese of Port Sudan in Sudan
Monday 29 th	Sherborne with Castleton, Lillington and Longburton
Tuesday 1 st	Melbury
Wednesday 2 nd	Queen Thorne
Thursday 3 rd	Sherborne with Castleton and St Paul's, Lillington and Longburton
Friday 4 th	LEP Sherborne Churches Together
Saturday 5 th	Archdeacon of Dorset, Ven Antony MacRow-Wood

The **Cycle of Prayer** is a three-month listing of parishes and ministries to pray for in the Diocese of Salisbury, including the names of team members and specific prayer requests.

Please download from:

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/worship/prayer/cycle-of-prayer>

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts.