

Second Sunday before Lent

Sunday February 4th 2024

Hymn

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow
let them his glory also show:

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:**

Prayer for the Day

Lifegiving God,
whose wisdom speaks to us
in light and breath,
in earth and flesh:
may we share her delight
in all that has life
and proclaim your incarnate word,
the lover of all creation;
through Jesus Christ, in whom all things hold together.
Amen.

First Reading Proverbs 8.1,22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Second Reading Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was

pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

**Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy pardoning love extend.**

**Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy saving grace extend.**

**Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy quickening power extend.**

**Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

Gospel Reading

John 1.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Hymn

Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind,
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

Post-Communion Prayer

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,

and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth

be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

Father, Lord of all creation,

ground of Being, Life and Love;

height and depth beyond description,

only life in you can prove:

you are mortal life's dependence:

thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;

yours is every hour's existence,

sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others

we, your people, make our prayer:

help us love - as sisters, brothers -

all whose burdens we can share.

Where your name binds us together

you, Lord Christ, will surely be;

where no selfishness can sever

there your love the world may see.

**Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us, abolish faction
God, through us, your love make known.**

For our prayers

Prayers for the Parish:

North Road; North Grove; Old School Place; Millers Gardens;
Wood Acre; St Thomas Mews

Prayers for our link churches in Zambia

Please pray for St Augustine's Church & St Monica's Church,
Livingstone East and their priest Rev Ackson Kampala. Please pray
for their project to raise enough funds to buy a car for the parish.

Prayers for those who are ill:

Audrey Parkes; Jean; Robert: Helen; Eva & family; Jenny & Geoff;
Alethea; Isaac; Molly Marshall; Sheila Stocker; Dorothy Dennis;
Lizzie Fox

R.I.P. Eric Holmes

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Fred Phare	(05-02-1993)	Elsie Batstone	(06-02-1978)
Kathlyn Taylor	(07-02-2013)	Tony Evans	(07-02-2014)
Louise Bale	(07-02-2018)	Sherwin Bailey	(09-02-1984)
Peter Fussell	(09-02-2014)	Mair Haines	(10-02-2017)

Thursdays at 11am - Pause to Pray for our legacy and for the redevelopment project.

This week:

Mon 11am Trio Paradis Café Concert
Tues 10 – 12 **Coffee Stop** in church
2 – 4pm *GA Choir rehearsals*
Wed 9.30-11am **ABC2** parents/carers & tots in the hall
11am **Eucharist** a quiet said service
Thurs 9.30am **A Time to Meditate** in church
10 – 11am **Keep Fit** in the church hall
2 – 4pm **Snack & Chat** in the community room
Sun 10am **Parish Eucharist** (Sunday before Lent)

Reminder: '**Sunday Youth**' is at 10am next Sunday, 11th Feb

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A Memorial Service for Anne Minns will be held in Wells Cathedral at 2pm on Thursday 22 February. All are welcome

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Electoral Roll Revision

The church electoral roll is revised each year in preparation for the Parish Annual Meeting, which this year is on 20th March. If you qualify to be on the electoral roll and are not already on this list of members of the church family, but you would like to be added, you will find application forms at the back of the church or from the parish office.

Please return completed forms to the parish office by Monday 4th March.

URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Christian Aid Lent Lunches – Fridays in Lent

*Enjoy a soup and bread lunch at the Seager Hall, Union Street
12noon – 1.30pm. Fridays 23rd Feb, 1st 8th 15th & 22nd March.*

St Thomas's church have been asked to provide the soup and staffing for this year's Christian Aid Lent Lunch on **Friday 22nd March**.

We need volunteers to make soup, and at least 10 people to help in the kitchen and out in the dining area.

Val Breen has kindly offered to once again head up this year's Lunch **BUT** only if enough people offer to help! So, anyone interested in helping can you please either speak to Val, or contact Caroline in the parish office by email or 01749 672335 as soon as possible. Or, we may have to cancel the Lent Lunch on the 22nd.

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St Thomas Church

**Ash Wednesday 14 February**

**11am Said Eucharist with the imposition of ashes**

**7.30pm Sung Eucharist with the imposition of ashes**

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Recycling you candles

You can bring any used candles to put in our candle recycling box at the back of church. They will be collected by the

Recycled Candle Company.

Wells Foodbank - Important News - February 2024

The Wells Foodbank and Furniture Storehouse Project is now a separate entity and no longer associated with the Wells Vineyard Church. The work of the Foodbank will continue as usual from its site in Rowdens Road.

For those of you who donate by direct debit or single payments to the Vineyard HSBC, please consider the other method:

<https://wellsvineyard.enthuse.com/defaultdonationcheckout#!/>

This link is currently on the Vineyard Church website, but is specific to the Foodbank and will move to a new Foodbank website in March.

More details will be available in the following weeks. Your donations are vital. The Foodbank spends around £2000 per month on groceries to meet the growing need.

In addition to the regular items listed, the Foodbank is particularly short of: 2 in 1 shampoos. Chocolate spread is particularly appreciated by the children.

Regular items: Tinned meals, eg stewed steak, chicken in white sauce, sausages and beans, Bolognese, Tinned ham, corned beef.

Tea, coffee, alternative milks. Instant meal pots and kits, eg curry, stir fry & Mexican meals. Toiletries eg toothpaste, shampoo and shower gels. Washing pods & cleaning products

There are sufficient stocks of baked beans.

PLEASE CHECK the sell-by date of donations from your larder, as the Foodbank cannot accept any out-of-date food.

If you wish to donate food directly in the supermarkets, and want them to be used locally, please ensure the collection point is for the Wells Foodbank. Otherwise, please leave items in the box by the door in St Thomas.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 01749 673620, or the Foodbank on 07587 125228 and info@wellsvineyard.com.

Thank you *Mike Tolley*

Trio Paradis Café Concert - Iberia

Mon 5th Feb 11am in St Thomas church (café open 10.30am)

Trio Paradis café concerts are informal feel-good music events with a pop-up café where you can meet friends and make new ones over tea/coffee and home-made cakes.



Iberia is a collection of music by mostly Spanish composers to bring us some sunshine during February, including Turina's Circulo and works by de Falla, Fernandez-Arbos, Albeniz, Pauline Viardot and others.

The concert last about 45mins and entrance is free with pay-what-you-feel donation invited.

No need to book, just turn up.

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## **Rock & Roll Night**

with

### **Loose Ends**

(a local band)

**St Thomas Church      Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March      7.30pm**

**Tickets £8**

*See poster for details of where to buy tickets*

*Organised by the City of Wells Lions Club*