



**Community Acts of Kindness in Lent — for the people
of Risborough, by the family of St Mary's
'Sharing the love of Christ with all'**

Please Pray for those organising our St Mary's Community Acts of Kindness this Lent, that they may be guided to make the right decisions. Please pray for those attending events that their lives may be touched by a simple act of kindness, showing God's love in action in their lives. Please also pray that funds will be forthcoming from donations to help pay for this outreach.

Thursday 15th & 16th February (10am to 4pm) – 'Holiday at Home'

Older people can enjoy a skiing-themed holiday without having to brave the cold - entertainment, activities, good food and companionship all provided over 2 days at St Mary's Church.

Thursday 22nd February (6.30am to 8.30am) – handing out bars of Anton's chocolates and bottles of water free to morning commuters at Risborough Railway station.

Saturday 3rd March – (9.30am to 11.30am) handing out chocolates on the High Street to shoppers and families on a Saturday morning. Stop and have a chat or a prayer with us.

Friday 9th March – (10.30am to 12 noon) free morning coffee concert in St Mary's Church for all, but especially the elderly from local care homes. Michael Pegram's Concert Band (ex RAF personnel & friends) are giving their services free. Coffee & cake whilst you listen.

Wednesday 21st March (7pm to 9pm) – pamper evening for ladies in St Mary's Church. We are hoping to enlist the services of local beauty therapists who will donate their time for free. All ladies will leave with a free goody-bag of toiletries.

Last few weeks in March tbc – activity to be nominated by the **Town Council**, such as clearing leaves from alleyways in town eg. The ones between the Fairway and Station Road and Park Meadow and Wycombe Road.



Prayer Bulletin February 2018

*'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer'
Romans 12:12*

*We hope this bulletin will encourage your prayer throughout this month—individually,
in Prayer Triplets and in Life Groups.
Our weekly church prayer meeting is on Wednesdays at 9am.*

Lent

The original period of Lent was 40 hours. It was spent fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ and the 40 hours He spent in the tomb. In the early 3rd century, Lent was lengthened to 6 days and at about 800 AD it was changed to the 40 days of Lent we now observe.

**Lord God,
as we travel through this season of Lent,
we choose to make the journey with you.
Only you know where you will lead us.
Give us all that we need,
so that we are enabled to let go
of all that would weigh us down,
and help our minds and eyes
to be open to the new things
that you want to show us.
Lead us by the waters of renewal.
Amen.**

God our companion, on the journeys we make today, *open* our eyes to see, *open* our ears to listen, *open* our hearts to love, and help us to pause and to *know* that you are alongside us.

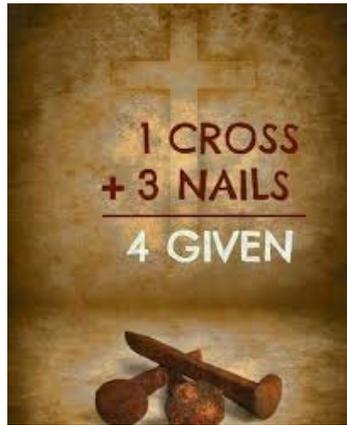
The Journey to the Cross

The traditional focus of Lent is in fasting, denying oneself pleasures, so that one can focus more deeply on the mysteries of Holy Week. However, in recent years, many Christians have been drawn more to **taking something up**, rather than giving something up for Lent. Please look at the back page to read the response from St Mary's. Also, please pray for those attending this year's **Lent Study course** run by Michael Hunt at St Mary's on 6th, 13th & 20th March and the **CTR series of Lent talks** at Costa Coffee on four Thursday evenings in March.

Forgive those things we have done

which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.
In both we have failed
ourselves, and you.
Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.
Lead us to the Cross
and meet us there.

Amen



The Israelite prophet Micah said:
"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God."

**God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that**

**we cannot remain silent,
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.**

**As your grace fills our hearts
so may we be stirred into action
to demonstrate your love for all the world**

Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward
searching that makes me more able to look
with compassion at the needs of the
world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences,
when being confronted with myself makes
me realise my need of you. **Amen**



Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**

**Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One
who gave everything,
that we might show the power of love
to a broken world,
and share the truth from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it.**