

Hello everyone

What have you given up for Lent? Traditionally lent is a time when Christians deprive themselves of some treat or other as a sign of sacrifice. However, in a time when we have been deprived of so many things, is this the time to give up even more?

The idea of 'giving up for lent' is not simply to stop enjoying certain foods or leisure activities, it is an opportunity to build our own self-discipline. As Jesus resisted temptation in the wilderness, we need to build our own resistance to temptation, even if that is the temptation to eat chocolate, and in doing so, we allow ourselves to be drawn closer to God.

So, as we begin this time of Lent, what is it that gets in the way of our relationship with God. Can we look to give that up and instead spend the time, money or energy to listen to God and follow his leading.

God Bless and stay safe

Stella

A prayer for our government

Lord

The leaders of our nation bear the hefty weight of office as they lead us through this pandemic.

So many voices speak to steer the course of travel
Yet there are many considerations.

Enable our Leaders to stay on the course you have set for them.
Be their wisdom and good counsel.

Help them to distil the voices.

Shine the light of your presence upon our prime minister,
our government and all who advise them.

Please take their yoke and shoulder the weight of responsibility
and lead us safely through this pandemic.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Crocheting love into
the community

Charlie has been very busy making crochet gifts.

She has been inspired by a group called 'Random Acts of Crochet Kindness', which she is part of.

She has been hanging them in bushes around Swadlincote for people to 'find'. 15 Valentine's hearts were taken on Valentines Day alone. The gift tag has a poem... **'you are loved.**

Made with love to show you're not alone, pass me on or take me home'.

Charlie has also been teaching some of the staff at Pingle School to Crochet as part of a Mental Health afternoon.

The rabbit is Charlies next project... an Easter giveaway!!



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

It was good to see so many people over this last week delivering Lent bags and marking homes with an ash cross.



Sunday recordings



While we are in lockdown and the church is closed for congregational worship, our weekly sermons will be uploaded each Sunday on our Facebook page

and prayer chain. If you have any questions or anything that you want to know, then please contact us via Facebook or telephone.

Phone support

For those who do not have access to Social Media, please remember that you can keep in contact through our Prayer Chain messaging system. If you are not on the prayer chain and would like to join, please send your mobile number to Stella (07802963817) and we can add you to the list.

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Alternatively, you can access prayers and hymns via the Church of England Daily Hope telephone number.

Get the vaccine

A reminder that it is important that everyone takes up the offer of the vaccine when it is made available to them in order to protect themselves, our communities, the nation and the global population.

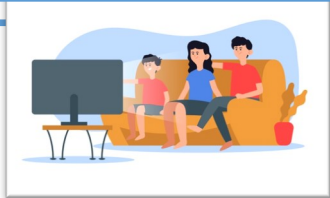
The Diocese of Derby is now supporting an initiative by Christian Aid to give both thanks and a donation once they have received the vaccine. It is always right to give thanks, of course. The donation will be used by Christian Aid to help vulnerable communities around the world access soap, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic.

Partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries including distributing food packages to nearly 60,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work during lockdown and the resulting economic downturn. Christian Aid will also support vaccination programmes in countries where it is operating by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by challenging misleading information about the virus and vaccination, as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

More details will be made available on the diocesan website in the next few days – please do consider supporting this important initiative..

After church coffee

After church coffee will be held this week at 4pm on Sunday. Please join us on Zoom if you can.



Copy and paste this link into your search bar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86499618208?pwd=UVZUN2lGbjYrUlpla2NEYVRnaFhzZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 9961 8208

Passcode: 233865