

Gospel Reading Matthew 4: 1 - 11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. ² After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."' ⁷ Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ⁹ 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."' ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Lent Course

If you are interested in attending the Lent Study Group this year, please speak to Revd. David. The course we are following is one from 'Embrace the Middle East', a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths, and none, to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice. Together with local Christian communities they are bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.

The Lent Course is called "Journey to the cross".

There will be six sessions on Monday evenings during Lent, i.e. March 2nd, (not March 9th as there is a PCC meeting then) March 16th, 23rd and 30th, and then both Monday 6th April and Wednesday 8th April in Holy Week. The sessions look at the people Jesus met during his ministry, the stories of those who live in the Middle East today and the challenges they face, and our own lives and the people we encounter. It will probably be held at the vicarage (but that is still to be decided) and the sessions will run from 7 - 9pm.

Dates for Your Diary

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| Mon 2nd March | 7pm | Lent Course at The Vicarage |
| Sat 14th March | 4pm | Messy Church |
| Fri 3rd April | 7.30pm | APCM, Church Hall |
| Sat. 4th April | 7.30pm | Easter Beetle Drive |
| Friday 10th April | | Good Friday |
| Sunday 12th April | | Easter Sunday |
| Saturday 25th April | | Church Yard Tidy Up Day |
| Wed 6th May | 6pm | Carnival Concert in church |
| Sat 9th May | 2-4pm | Church Open with Stewards |
| Sat 9th May | | May Carnival |
| Sun 10th May | 10am | Carnival Service |

Open The Book

Some more people are required to help take 'Open The Book' into Mary Dean School on a few Wednesdays each term. It gives the children a dramatised reading of a Bible story which they really enjoy. The next ones are on 4th and 18th March. A rehearsal is always arranged beforehand at a convenient time for everyone. All are welcome. Please speak to Revd. David Gill or Jo Parker if you are interested. Thank you.

Spectacles Wanted

Ray Shipton is organising a collection of any unwanted spectacles on behalf of the Plymouth Lions Club. There is a box on the table at the back of Church, near the font, in which you can place any spectacles you no longer need. They will be sent off to be used abroad where they will be very welcome.

Revision of Electoral Roll 2020

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll is now taking place. No new applications can be made until after the APCM on 3rd April. The revision will be completed and the roll displayed on 15th March. During the period 23rd February to 15th March corrections may be made, but no names may be added or removed between the time the roll is completed and the close of the APCM.

Thank you. Pat Brooks Electoral Roll Officer

Our Fundraising Projects

We are currently working on the addition of a toilet in Church to save the long trek to the Church Hall.

You may be interested to know that over the past year, the profits from the Sunday refreshments have contributed £447 to the St Mary's projects and, since we started in 2017, the total contribution has been £1478. Sincere thanks are due to the kind volunteers who help to run the scheme and who very generously provide many of the high-quality consumables. Without their generous support the costs would be much higher.

You may also like to know that the Flush Fund donation box at the back of the Church raised £353 last year.

Lone Working

If you have to do any work on your own in the Church or Church Hall, please notify someone that you are going and how long you expect to be. Then notify them when you have finished. If possible have a mobile phone with you. This applies to everyone, even volunteers, whether cleaning, flower arranging or climbing ladders! A Lone Working Policy will soon be included within a Health & Safety section in our Safeguarding Policy which will be available at the back of Church or on our Church website at www.saintmarys.org.uk.

Church Hall Lighting

We are currently working to replace the Church Hall lighting at a cost of just over £1000. Any donations towards the cost would be most welcome.