

Time to reflect

Emails arrive when we have the right address, the right name. Often people choose a quirky name as a teenager that they stick with later in life – because it's too difficult to change and because somehow we get stuck in people's heads with our self-definition.

In our reading today (see over), God gives Abram and Sarai a new set of names. They will have a new place and new role in the world. We tend to be a bit suspicious of those who give themselves their own nick-name or redefine who they are. We wonder what they've done that they want to hide behind a smoke screen. In fact, in Abram's and Sarai's case, it often works the other way around. We are so familiar with the new "name" (Abraham) that we forget there was a "before". Readers often stumble in church over this unfamiliar name.

It is good to recall there was a "before" for Abraham because that is also true for us, too. We all have a time BC, Before Christ, a time before we became aware of his love for us, his longing for us. We probably did not take on a new name when we became alert to the love of Jesus but maybe we took on board a greater ownership of our Baptismal call to follow Jesus, a deeper sense of our discipleship.

Just after our passage, in literally the next verse, Abram hoots with laughter. It is the first example in literature of ROFL (Rolls on floor laughing—see text speak and/teenager for details). So often we take God so seriously and we come across as prim and proper. Abram realises that when God is at work, our expectations and plans go out the window. The only response that make sense is infectious laughter and a sense that our old selves, our old names, will no longer quite do because God has plans for us.

Worship and Activities this week

Today	5.00pm	Office Hour
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	"In-house" @ House on the Rock
	7.30pm	Youth Group @Blackburne Hall
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	12 noon	Soup, sandwich and Study Group
	7.00pm	Adult Study Group
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Tiddlers @ Blackburne Hall
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Finance Cttee, House on The Rock
Fri	9.30am	Funeral of Philip Smith
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert by Bury Grammar School girls and boys pupils. Admission £5.00
	4.00pm	Junior Choir Practice
	7.00pm	Full Choir Practice

Next week: Third Sunday in Lent 4th March

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
8.40am	Adult Sunday School & breakfast
10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday School
6.30pm	Evensong

Contact Details

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly parish magazine The Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For further reading please visit the website. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by *Wednesday please*. Tel 0161 764 2452

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Bury Parish Church

Second Sunday in Lent

25 Feb 2018

www.buryparishchurch.com

We **welcome you** and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also **welcome children in church**. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There are also activity bags at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion
President: Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parish Eucharist
President: Ian McVeety, Priest
Preaching: Ian McVeety, Priest
Hymns: 586 vs 1, 5, 9 & 10; 582; 622; 624; 398

Motets: S. S. Wesley: Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
Richard Farrant: Hide not thou thy face

6.30pm Evensong
Minister: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector
Hymns: 374; 522; 481
Psalm: 135: 1-14
Genesis 12. 1-9 (pgs.
Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16 (pg
Canticles: Orlando Gibbons Short Service
Anthem: Grayston Ives: O for a closer walk with God

Cornerstone

Breaking down walls. Building bridges. Creating shelter. Being God's people in Bury

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A reading from the book of Genesis

(Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark *(Mark 8: 31-38)*

Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus began to teach His disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But turning and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Memorial Anniversary

From March, the anniversary names will be included in the Parish Magazine and not on the pew sheet.
James Melia (25), Lilian Pollard (25), Rita Cansfield (25), Richard Tyrer Barker (26), Edith Bottomley (26), Charles Jackson (26), Edith Roberts (26), Wilfred Ainscow (26), Lenora Shaw (26), Gillian Rothwell (27), Mabel Graham (27), Mary Ceres (27), Robert Hamer (28), Olwen Battersby (28), Ron Clarke (28), James Isherwood (29).

Quiz Night Saturday 17th March

This will be in the Blackburne Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets £6, children under 11 free of charge includes a pie and peas supper and can be purchased from Keith Sedman (764 8309). Bring your own drink.

Manchester Chorale Saturday 24th March

The Manchester Chorale will be commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War in a charity concert at our church on **Saturday, 24th March 2018** at 7:30pm. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Royal British Legion. Tickets £10, concessions £5 can be purchased from The House on The Rock, Bury Tourist Information office or on the door.

John Rutter's Requiem Friday 30th March

Come & Sing: John Rutter's Requiem with Bury Parish Choir. Cost £5, payable on the door. All proceeds in aid of the choir trip to sing services at Gloucester Cathedral during August 2018.

Black Dyke Band Thursday 19th April

BDB concert is on at 7.30 pm. Tickets: Adults £12.00 and age 16 and under £6.00 can be purchased from The House on The Rock coffee/book shop, Bury Parish Church. Telephone 0161 763 7336 or on line from www.buryparishchurch.com/blackdykeband.

Lent extras—opportunities to grow

A reminder that we have things we can do to deepen our faith and journey towards the Cross.

Sunday: 8.40am Adult Sunday School

Wednesday: 12 Noon Soup, sandwich and chat

Wednesday: 7.00pm Adult Study Group

Friday: 9.00am Holy Communion (via choir vestry)

We pray for the recently departed

We hold before the Lord those who have recently died especially, *Phillip Smith and Beryl Heaton* May they rest in peace and rise in glory.