

Time to Reflect

“It was their fault”. “They shouldn’t have been there”. “They must have done something wrong.” Do you recognise the ideas? That victims of random attacks (think Christchurch, New Zealand or knife crime or child abuse or the people of Mozambique affected by Cyclone Idai) are partially responsible because... they are Moslems or Black or young or simply live in the wrong country?

We hear from a rather odd bit of Luke’s Gospel today (see over). Jesus is told about and tells some grim events and raises the question; “why?”. It’s a question we’ve all asked. And those shabby answers above point to the sort of unthought-out solutions we come up with. What does Jesus come up with? What might we actually think and say that makes sense? If you like, what is the Christian take on this?

What Jesus does is not to answer in terms of those who have suffered. Rather, he asks the questioners what they have been doing. He tells a story and, in essence, says this; there’s no point in getting your heads all of a dither about what’s happened to other people—the only question that’s worth grappling with is whether you are being fruitful yourself, whether your life is touching others with love and grace and generosity.

It’s a good answer. All that suffering? Frankly, there’s not much we can do (though we might be able to do something). The one thing we definitely can do something about is our own lives. So perhaps we ought to focus on that. Surely, that’s enough?

Worship and Activities this week

Sun	12.30pm Baptism of Olivia Andrews and Aleksander Grzadka 5.00pm Office Hour 6.30pm Evensong
Mon	1.00pm “In-house” @ House on t’Rock 7.30pm Youth Central @ Church Hall
Tues	7.00pm Bury Grammar School Choral Society : Handel’s Messiah 7.30pm Lent Study Group, St Francis House, Brandlesholme
Wed	11.00am Holy Communion 2.00pm Lent Study Group in Rectory 7.00pm Lent Study Group in Kay Room 7.00pm ALFA School Concert
Thurs	9.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Tiddlers @ Church House 12.45pm Holy Communion
Fri	8.00am Dust Busters 9.30am Morning Prayer 12.30pm Lunchtime Concert with Constance Chan (piano) 4.00pm Choir School 7.00pm Full Choir Practice
Sat	9.30am Morning Prayer 12.30pm Wedding of Christina Burt and Graeme Biggs

Next Week: Mothering Sunday 31 March 2019

8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
11.30am Interment of Ashes—Mike Walsh
5.00pm Office Hour
6.30pm Evensong

Collects from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*; *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*; *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000* *The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised Edition)*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3rd Sunday of Lent

24th March 2019
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 is a **Hearing Loop** for those who would value it.



8.00am Said Holy Communion

Third Sunday in Lent (p 89)

President: Julian Heaton, Rector

Preaching : Sheila Beattie, Curate

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

President: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

Preaching : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

Hymns: 467; 385; 283 ; 324; 516

Motets:

Thomas Attwood :

Turn thy face from my sin

Richard Farrant :

Lord, for thy tender mercies sake

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Minister : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

Preaching : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

Hymns: 240; 242; 238

Psalm 85 (pg. 454)

Genesis 3. 8-15 (pg.3)

Galatians 4. 1-5 (pg. 976)

Anthem: Edward Elgar : Ave Maria

Cornerstone

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No

testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 13.1-9)

Glory to You, O Lord

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-- do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Parish Lunch

Easter Parish Lunch on Sunday, 14th April at 12.00 noon. Tickets at £5.00 from Churchwardens

Request for New Members on the PCC

We are looking for new members to join the PCC. This is not an arduous task as the PCC normally only meet about 5 times a year and this is in the evening. There are nomination forms on the Church Notice-board or you wish to find out more, please speak to Hilary Ankers, the PCC Secretary or to Julian or Rhiannon or Sheila, our clergy team.

APCM

7th April at 11.30am APCM—Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting in the Blackburne Hall. Formal announcement on Notice Board.

Black Dyke Band Concert

The Black Dyke concert is taking place on Thursday 4th April at 7.30 pm. Ticket price is £12.00 and 16 and under £6.00 and can be purchased from The House on The Rock, Bury Parish Church. Telephone 0161 763 7336 or online from

www.buryparishchurch.com/blackdykeband.

And you thought Brexit was convoluted...

Dear all, many of you have been so kind in asking about my future plans and I am now in a position to update you on what is happening. or rather, what is not happening: I will now not be leaving on Easter Sunday as anticipated but will be staying on for a few months more in order to discern what the Lord's will is for my next step. Thank you so much for your patience and prayers and looking forward to hanging out with you for a bit longer!

Baptisms & Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday.