

THE BENEFICE OF ILMINSTER & WHITELACKINGTON

Pewsheets for week beginning Sunday 3rd March 2024

Calendar

Sunday 3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
9.00am Holy Communion - *Whitelackington*
10.30am All Age Worship - *The Minster*
10.30am Facebook Sunday Service
12.00pm Baptism Service

Monday 4th March

8.00am Meditation - *The Minster*
9.15am Morning Prayer via Zoom *
6.30pm Meditation via Zoom

Wednesday 6th March

8.00am Meditation - *The Minster*
8.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom *
10.00am FoodBank and FoodShare in Minster Rooms
10.30am Holy Communion - *The Minster*
7.00pm Meditation Group - *The Minster*

Thursday 7th March

8.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom *

Friday 8th March

8.00am Meditation - *The Minster*

Saturday 9th March

10.00am FoodBank and FoodShare in Minster Rooms
6.00pm Beetle Drive in Minster Rooms

Sunday 10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Exodus 2:1-10, John 19.25b-27

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
NO Service - *Whitelackington*
10.30am Holy Communion Benefice Service - *The Minster* (Bishop Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells, will be preaching)
5.00pm The Selfish Giant, a musical meditation led by 'In Ecclesia' – *The Minster*
with refreshments afterwards in the Minster Rooms

* if you wish to join via Zoom please email Jo: vicar@ilminsterpc.org

We pray for:

- All those remembering death anniversaries including the family and friends of Robert Pym, Edward 'Maxwell' Swainn, Marion Stephens and Pearl White.
- Those who live in Waites Drive and Foundry Close.
- Our Mission Partner this month – Sweet Surprise.

This Week: please pray for ...

- Our Cancer Support Group meeting this week and for all currently undergoing treatment for cancer, including His Majesty the King.

- All those who aren't able to come to church any more, giving thanks for the work of our pastoral team as they visit and pray with them, remembering especially the residents of George Maher Court and Horton Cross nursing home as Judith takes communion to them on Monday.
- Finley who is being baptised this Sunday.
- Those who organise social events in our churches, giving thanks for their time and commitment.
- Former Benefice curate Deborah Perreau, in her new role as Local Priest for the Cloverleaf villages.
- We continue to pray for peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Gaza.

A Lenten Prayer

As the days lengthen
and earth spends longer in the light of the sun,
grant that we may spend longer in the light of Your presence, O Lord.
And may those seeds of Your Word,
long since buried in our hearts,
grow, like all around us, into love for you, all people, and all creation.
Grant, O God,
that this Lent may be a springtime for our lives in Christ.
Amen.

[Lent | Middlesbrough Diocese \(middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk\)](http://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk)

News:

• ALISON BROWN – CHURCHWARDEN

Alison Brown has been The Minster's Churchwarden since 2020, serving with dedication through the challenging period of the pandemic. She has, though, decided that this coming APCM is the time to step back from this role, to encourage someone new to take on this responsible but very rewarding position within the life of our church. I am deeply grateful for the considerable time she has put into the tasks of 'churchwardening' and especially the warm welcome she has offered to all who visit The Minster on a Sunday. There will, of course, be an opportunity at the APCM to offer more fulsome thanks and to show her our appreciation. As Alison has been acting as The Minster's sole churchwarden, it is important that all of us think and pray about who might take up this mantle, remembering that how a role has been done does not necessarily dictate how it will be done in the future. If you'd like to find out more do talk to me, Alison or former wardens Lydia and Becky, all of whom would, I'm sure, be able to give you an idea of what being a churchwarden involves. Meanwhile, do join with me in praying for Alison and giving thanks for the gifts and talents she has given in God's service in her time as churchwarden. Jo

• NEW SONG – ALL AGE WORSHIP

We'll be singing a Graham Kendrick song that's new to us in All Age Worship on Sunday. You might like to have a listen beforehand to begin to learn the tune. [Call the seeker - STF 37 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37):

• MINSTER ROOMS – RETURN OF STORED ITEMS

Thank-you so much to everyone who has stored items from the Minster Rooms during the refurbishment. Except for those of you who are storing either children's toys or craft items, please could everything else be returned to the Minster Rooms either on Friday 1st March 9.30-3.30pm or Saturday 2nd March 10.00am-12.00pm. If you need any help with returning items, do please let Alison know.

• BISHOP MICHAEL BENEFICE VISIT

If you've not yet had the chance to meet our Diocesan Bishop, Michael Beasley, do join us for worship next Sunday 10th March for a Benefice service for Mothering Sunday at The Minster at 10.30am. Bishop Michael will be preaching and there will be a chance to meet him at coffee afterwards. On Monday 11th he'll be visiting Wadham School, meeting with

our wardens and then in the evening spending time with both our PCCs. If you have any thoughts about our Diocese or the Church of England more generally that you'd like shared with him, do speak to a member of your respective PCC. Do hold Bishop Michael in your prayers as he leads our Diocese. Jo

- **'THE SELFISH GIANT' – MUSICAL MEDITATION 'IN ECCLESIA' – 10th March at 5pm**

Do make the most of the opportunity to join us for a free (donations welcomed) musical meditation based around Oscar Wilde's beautiful fairy tale 'The Selfish Giant'. You can find out more about the choir 'In Ecclesia' here: [About - In Ecclesia](#) It promises to be a wonderful evening of music – why not invite a friend to join you? There will be hot drinks served afterwards in the Minster Rooms. See you there! Jo.

- **LENT LUNCH – BIBLES FOR HERNE VIEW**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lent Lunch on Thursday, because of the generous donations given we raised £390 towards the cost of buying 60 bibles for the Year 3 pupils at Herne View School. Our thanks also go to those who provided the soup lunches, refreshments and hospitality.

Repeat Notices ...

- **FUTURE EVENTS FOR THE DIARY**

We've got some wonderful events coming up in March that you might like to put in your diary. They are all free but with donations either to The Minster or charity and would be really good opportunities to invite a friend to come along with you:

Friday 22nd March, 7pm We are looking forward to welcoming Shireen Awwad Hilal from Bethlehem Bible College who will be speaking about the work of the Shepherd Society supporting families who live in the Bethlehem area (Minster Rooms).

Monday 25th March, 2pm 'The Passion in Art' Art historian Mary Chisholm, who gave such a fascinating lecture about the nativity in art, will turn her attention, at the beginning of Holy Week, to the Passion.

- **JUDITH'S LAST SUNDAY IN BENEFICE AND LICENSING**

Following the super news of Judith's appointment to her first incumbency serving Somerton and surrounding villages, we're now able to give you a bit more detail on the end of her curacy here. Judith's last Sunday service here, at which she will preach and preside, will be our Benefice service at The Minster on Sunday 30th June at 10.30am. Judith and the family will move shortly after this and then her licensing in Somerton will be on the evening of Thursday 25th July. We'll provide you with more details about a leaving present and arrangements for her licensing service nearer the time. Do continue to pray for Judith, the family, and her new parishes at this time of change. Jo

- **'GIVING IN KIND'**

We're going to be trialling a new way for all of us to give a little extra financially to The Minster by 'giving in kind'. There are a variety of consumables which we use as a church from some cleaning materials which we can't purchase in bulk, to toilet paper, tea and biscuits for refreshment. From this weekend there will be a section on the noticeboard in church labelled 'Giving in Kind' and under this will be placed post-it notes which will be dated and, on them, say what needs to be purchased. For example, '23rd February, Fairtrade bag of white granulated sugar' '25th February, Recycled toilet paper, 4 pack'. If you would be happy to buy that item, you would then take the post-it note off the noticeboard, pop to the Co-op, Tesco or food store of choice, buy whatever is on the post-it note and deliver it to Julie in the office or to whoever greets you on a Sunday. Setting aside extra money regularly can I know be challenging, but if in response to The Minster's need to raise its income you would like to help on this more ad hoc basis, making these small gifts is another way we can all help. We'll see how it goes! Jo

- **MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES**

This year we're going to try something a little different for the 10.30am service at The Minster on Mothering Sunday (10th March). If you're able to, please would you bring to

church a small, wrapped posy of flowers and greenery from the garden. Simple will be just fine – it's the thought that counts. The posies will be collected as we arrive at church and then distributed towards the end of the service so that everyone present is able to take home some (hopefully) different flowers. We'll also make sure that there are some spare posies made. You can then either keep the flowers you're given or, if you'd like to, give them away to someone you know who would appreciate them – particularly if they will be alone or housebound on a day when so many people see friends and family.

- **LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Although it may feel that Lent has only just begun, it might be good to begin to consider how you will mark the most solemn and joyful week in the Christian calendar. We hope to have a flier with all services ready soon but it's worth thinking now about which of those you'll be able to join us for: from the drama of Palm Sunday, the mixed emotions of Maundy Thursday, the sadness of Good Friday, the anticipation of Holy Saturday and, finally, the rejoicing of Easter Day. It's probably helpful to remind you too that the clocks go forwards on Easter Day! I'm also delighted to let you know that we will be sharing in some of the services of Holy Week with our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations in Ilminster. So, whilst Bank Holiday weekends are obviously important times with family and friends, hopefully you'll be able to balance special time with those you love alongside marking Jesus' death and resurrection as fully as possible. Jo

Giving

The ministry of both our churches relies on the generous gifts of our congregations and other individuals. We receive no government or central church funding. Please do consider giving either online via [St Marys Ilminster and St Marys Whitelackington | Donate \(ilminsterpc.org.uk\)](#) or in relation to The Minster do get in touch with our Planned Giving Coordinator, David Hawkings, via giving@ilminsterpc.org.uk.

Contacts

Vicar: Revd Jo Stobart: vicar@ilminsterpc.org.uk/ 01460 391569
(usually takes Tuesdays as her day off)

Curate: Revd Judith Swan: curate@ilminsterpc.org.uk/ 07867 966318
(usually takes Saturdays as her day off and Fridays as her study day)

Wardens: Alison Brown 01460 929642 (Minster), Dora Hallett 01460 52272 (Whitelackington)

Office: Julie Bristow: office@ilminsterpc.org.uk/ 01460 57811
Working hours Wednesday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm

Safeguarding: Sarah Wright, safeguarding@ilminsterpc.org.uk/ 07549 257014

- **PATRICIA LINDLEY'S LICENSING AS A READER**

I wanted to give everyone lots of notice that, God willing, Patricia's licensing service as Reader in the Benefice will take place on Saturday 5th October at Wells Cathedral. Nearer the time we will, of course, find lifts for those who don't have access to a car. Do put this special date in your diary. Jo

- **CLEANING THE MINSTER**

There'll be one of our regular cleaning days at The Minster on Saturday 13th April between 10am-12pm. A great way to get to meet new people and care for our beautiful church. Refreshments and decade appropriate pop music provided. 😊 Do talk to our verger Kevin if you'd like to find out more.

Sunday Services

1st Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
9.00am Holy Communion - *Whitelackington*
10.30am All Age Worship - *The Minster*
10.30am Facebook Sunday Service

2nd Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
10.30am Holy Communion - - *The Minster*
6.00pm Evening Prayer – *Whitelackington* **or 9.00am Morning Prayer in winter**

3rd Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - - *The Minster*
9.00am Holy Communion - *Whitelackington*
10.30am Morning Praise - *The Minster*
5.00pm Church Where You Are (Facebook)

4th Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
9.00am Morning Prayer - *Whitelackington*
10.30am Holy Communion - *The Minster*

5th Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - *The Minster*
10.30am Holy Communion Benefice Service - *The Minster*

Wed

10.00am Memories Café in Minster Rooms – alternate Wednesdays

Fri

11.00am Cancer Support Group in Minster Rooms – 1st Friday
1.45pm Feel Good Fridays – 2nd & 4th Fridays
3.30pm Roots & Shoots at IMinster Rec - 3rd Fridays

Repeat Notices ...

Jo assemblies w/b 5 February