



It seems we have barely got through the Christmas season than Lent is almost upon us.



I suppose that for many people the word 'Lent' conjures up an image of that time in the year when we are supposed to give up things. Perhaps sweets or chocolate, not taking sugar in a cup of tea or coffee. Perhaps cutting down on those glasses

of wine or some other luxury. I know a priest who always retired to bed early; he read and ate chocolate in bed; his wife stayed up slaving over a hot p.c. (no laptops then). During Lent he gave up eating chocolate! That same priest also tried to talk me into joining him in a 'lent slim' with a public weigh-in every week before Mass. But I don't think that is what Lent is about.

I once heard of someone who made a promise not to grumble during Lent. Now that sounds much better!

The introduction to the Ash Wednesday Mass puts it in perspective for us.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy lent, by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Very simply it's a time for us to take a long look at the person, and work of the Lord as we see him in the gospels. Its in Jesus that we see what God is really like. We see God's free, trusting and costly love and its in him too, we see what we can become. But that means taking a long hard look at what and where we are. We don't, or shouldn't compare ourselves with others

around us, but with Jesus, with his life, his attitude and his way of seeing things and doing things.

That will mean a change and change is not something we really want to do or are very good at. We only need to ask ourselves how we have kept those new year resolutions!

How about some Lenten Resolutions this year?

- Attendance at Sunday Mass an absolute priority
- Join one of the Lent Groups
- Do some kind of Bible Study
- Perhaps some other appropriate reading
- Quality time with God in prayer, meditation, just being still and quiet with God
- Some kind of appropriate self denial
- Savings from that self denial to be given to our Lent Charity
- Use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lent helps us to see just how far short we fall from being the people we can be and the people God wants us to be.

Happy Lent!

Roger Durbin

LENT CHARITIES 2013

This year we are supporting two charities, one at home here in Bristol and the other in Uganda.

CRISIS CENTRE MINISTRIES

Crisis Centre Ministries, or 'CCM', is a Christian charity that helps homeless and drug-addicted people in Bristol. This is achieved by running four main projects: The Wild Goose, The LITE Course, East Bristol Foodbank and Spring Of Hope Ladies 'Night Shelter.

The Wild Goose serves ten of thousands of hot, free meals every year, helps hundreds of people into emergency and supported accommodation, and many others in various practical ways.

The LITE course (Life-Skills and Initial Training for Employment) aims to build confidence and develop the potential of people who have been long termed under-employed.

The East Bristol Food Bank is a recent project that provides food parcels to people who have been referred by front-line care professionals such as doctors and social workers.

The Spring Of Hope Ladies' Night shelter, the most recent project, provides eight emergency self-referral beds in a safe place for women who may otherwise have nowhere to go.

More information is available at www.crisis-centre.org.uk

UGANDA

All Saints regularly supports Uganda either through one off events or donations from our annual mission giving. This year we have the opportunity to help finance various building projects, in particular the repair of church roofs which have been damaged by hostilities and other events.

In Uganda church buildings are used for schools, community meeting places as well as for worship so this is a very vital project to support.

Gift Aid envelopes will be available throughout Lent.

JOAN ('KAY') FLYNN

My dear sister Joan, known to many as 'Kay', died shortly before Christmas aged 92; her funeral was on January 11th at St. Symphorian's Church, Worthing. She was

included in our parish list over many years while she suffered a succession of strokes. Until her first stroke twenty years ago she led a full and very busy life as matriarch of a large family and as partner in a business which arranged accommodation for foreign students. Since then, in addition to her own drastic illnesses and increasing debility, she suffered the illness and death of her husband Paul from cancer. She moved first to a sheltered flat and later to an excellent nursing-home by the South Downs. Those twenty years have been much blessed, with old and new interests (including computers), old and new friendships, a loving family and faithful pastoral ministry from St. Symphorian's. I thank all of you who prayed for her, and ask you now to thank God for all her blessings. Go forth, O Christian soul!

Hugh Barron

INCOME SURVEY

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24th

The diocese requires us to carry out an Income Survey every 3 years. This will take place on Sunday February 24th. Previously the results of this survey assisted the diocese in calculating our Parish Share. This is no longer the case, however the results are used by the diocese and the Church of England in general to produce an overall financial picture of the potential giving by parishioner, parish and diocese.

Please complete this simple and anonymous form and place in the collection box provided in the Atrium

If you have any questions or require assistance completing the form please speak to the churchwardens or Norman Drewett.

Marathon des Sables

In March 2011 I was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Luckily for me, I caught it very early, was operated on within a few days, had some chemotherapy and made a full recovery before returning to work 10 weeks later. Although I'm technically in remission, the chances are good that I won't have any kind of recurrence and will be able to get on with my career and life as if nothing had happened. As you can imagine, I feel pretty passionately about spreading the message and indeed looking after those affected; it was a pretty scary time for me and my pregnant wife. The day I went back to work I signed up to do the Marathon des Sables in Morocco in April this year, as a target for getting back to fitness. It's a multi day, 150 mile run in the desert, made famous by the likes of James Cracknell and Ben Fogel. It's a pretty epic challenge, and I'm trying to raise £10000 for the Orchid Charity, which is devoted to education and support for guys who get "young man's cancer". You can really help me to stay motivated when it gets tough and encourage my training by sponsoring me; it should be really easy to do, GiftAid can be included and every little bit will be hugely appreciated. Thank you!

Kenny Dalglish

You can see pictures, a short video and Kenny's blog on his website ... <http://www.saharakenny.com>

On 12th Jan Kenny had raised 14% of his target of £10,000. If you feel so moved you can donate through the website (which links to JustGiving.com) or via his father who will be happy to forward a cheque.

A Reading from William Temple, *Christian Faith and Life – The Church*

The following was read at BCP Evensong instead of a short sermon on Sunday 13 January 2013.

When his visible presence was withdrawn from men's sight, what was left as the fruit of his ministry?. Not a formulated creed, not a body of writings in which a new philosophy of life was expounded, but a group of men and women who found themselves knit together in a fellowship closer than any that they had known, and who became the nucleus of the whole Christian Church. As the fellowship expanded it drew within its bounds people of every type, every nation and every class...

The name of this fellowship, which ought ideally to be so close as to constitute a single personality, is the Church. St Paul speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ, and what he means first and foremost by that is, of course, that as Jesus of Nazareth used the body of flesh and blood in order to live before men the life which interprets to them the very being of God, so the Church exists on earth to do the self-same thing. It is the means whereby Christ becomes active and carries out his purpose in the world; that is what it is for, and that is what makes it the Church, the life of his Spirit within it, rising out of its faith in him. And that remains true of it even when people who are the members of the Church from time to time become very feeble in their faith, so that the Activity of his Spirit by means of them is very much hampered and Limited.... In the book of Revelation, there is a vision of the Word of God going forth conquering and to conquer, and of the armies in heaven following him

That is the true picture of the Church.

HYMN BOOK SEARCH No 3

Last month ("Eternity's too short")

Herbert 391 (3) and Addison 472 (6).

This time it's Find Four for February, namely, four versions of the 23rd Psalm

From the Dean of Bristol Cathedral

There are different ways of measuring what it is like to live in a recession. If you are a Dean, you spend a long time, listening to people explain graphs and bar charts, telling you that it is bad and not getting better. You do not need the graphs however, to know that we are in trouble. Newspapers and television and radio tell us about recession and have startling stories of what it means in Greece, in Spain, and in Portugal. Or, we only need to walk down any High Street and notice the shutters going up. Suddenly, it seems, familiar names may not become familiar to our children: Jessops, Comet, HMV, Blockbuster.

There are all sorts of ways of measuring out this recession. There is one index though that is harder to see. It is not visible on the High Street, it does not come with experts; it does not even make the news very much. Quietly, but with mounting anxiety, people are turning off the radiators, missing meals, slipping behind with the rent. We know it is happening; we know that the Food Banks are busier; we hear the stories of hardship. As City and County Councils face another round of budget cuts funds for those in hardship dry up and, try as we might, it is the poorest and the most vulnerable who will notice that most.

As the recession bites we enter a culture of blame. One party accuses another party, some castigate 'the bankers' (and muddle up a very complex business), most people get cross about big companies strangely unburdened by tax, and a few start dividing society up into 'shirkers' and 'strivers'. Our divisions get wider and the rich, once more, do better than the poor.

If you conduct an internet search for '2013' you will find that this is the Year of Water Co-operation, the International Year of Statistics, the Year of Natural Scotland and the Year of Quinoa. I am sure all of that is important, some of it very important indeed (even if I had to look Quinoa up. Most importantly though, this will be a year of hardship. Those graphs I mentioned are beginning to show that this recession is unusual and that recovery is a very long time coming; wages are not bouncing back and neither, of course is spending. As a consequence, this will be a year when the divisions in our communities will deepen. We must notice that.

The ministry of Christ, in which we all share, sought out those in hardship and overcame division. Lepers were healed, sinners forgiven and the outcasts were made welcome. It is not just our charity, money and kindness that is needed (though they will be important) it is our conviction that community is important that is being put to the test. 2013 needs to be the year we take a stand against prejudice and division. This needs to be a year of grace. [The Very Revd Dr David Hoyle is Dean of Bristol Cathedral](#)

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Company of Servers



The inaugural meeting of the
Bristol Chapter

Saturday, 3rd March 9.30am
St Gregory's Church
Gloucester Road, Bristol

All servers and clergy welcome to attend.

Light refreshments provided

Elizabeth Badman

0117 973 4156

www.companyofservers.org