

**MARCH 2021**

# Contact

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

Family Worship  
10.30am

### Wednesday

Congregational Café  
11am – 1pm

Scoffs  
12 noon  
(2nd Wednesday only)

### Thursday

Rainbows Baby & Toddler  
Group  
9.30am

### Friday

Badminton  
7.30pm

## MINISTER

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## SECRETARY

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## TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’

The story of creation begins in the opening chapter of the Bible with these well known words. This sentence in Genesis 1 sets the scene for the beginning of the drama that was about to unfold.

The opening scene of the biblical drama introduces us to the two main characters in the Bible - God and man - and we go on to learn from the first chapter of Genesis that the earth was formless, empty, and dark. Then begin the seven most creative days of all time as God speaks life into existence and begins to show us the beauty of each element of creation: the firmament, the oceans and all biological organisms, humans, all species of plants and animals: each is declared beautiful and good in the eyes of God.

From day one on this earth God was a creator God. The simple truth of the biblical creation story is that God is the author of creation and the creator of the world. He is the ultimate creative being and He brought the world into existence with all of its interconnected processes to ensure that every living thing was part of His creation.

God was very pleased with His creation. Six times throughout the process of creating, God stopped, observed His action, and saw that it was good. On His final inspection of all that He had made, God regarded it as very good.

By calling each element good, God pledges an ongoing relationship of love with the earth and with each of its elements. And it is only when God saw everything, and how the whole creation works together as an interconnected living ecological system, that God declares everything to be very good.

Whilst most Christians can easily quote Genesis 1 when discussing Bible verses about creation, there are so many other scripture verses that remind us that God not only created the Earth, but also calls on us to protect and care for it.

The creation story clearly shows that God enjoyed himself as He went about the work of creation and as Christians, we are part of God's creation and it is our duty to be good stewards of the rest of creation. In the Bible, when God created Adam and Eve, He put them into a garden, with the responsibility of looking after it and commanded man to be a steward of the environment and to look after His creation. God gave us responsibility to protect and to care for the planet and the earth's resources.

The world around us changes every day but God's wonderful creation is particularly noticeable at this time of the year when the world becomes a lot greener as the plants begin to grow again and the trees begin to show signs of new life. It is also Lent now and the word Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word 'lenctum' meaning 'lengthen' and refers to the lengthening of the days as spring approaches.

As we look around our world, let's be grateful that we experience new life not just during Lent but all year round.

Finally, take a moment to appreciate this perfect creation around us. As we open our eyes to see its beauty and we must also be aware of its vulnerability and the devastation and damage humans are causing to God's good creation.

In the Bible, whilst the whole of creation is important, God cares even more for the people. We are meant to work in harmony with the world God has made to support us and to protect the environment, and the people who live there. *Cont'd*

**Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister**

## OFFERTORIES

February Offertories - £294.00  
Standing Orders - £627.00

**Total £921.00**

### Donations

Legacy Joan Radcliffe -£1,500.00  
Royton Trust - £379.92  
NW Area Grant - £2,544.00

Thank you once again for your generosity during these difficult times.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY  
TO ALL THE LADIES IN  
OUR CONGREGATION**

MOTHERHOOD IS A  
MILLION LITTLE MOMENTS  
THAT GOD WEAVES  
TOGETHER WITH  
*grace*  
REDEMPTION, LAUGHTER,  
TEARS AND MOST OF ALL

*love*

## #LiveLent

Just a reminder that the online reflective videos will continue to be posted on the church Facebook page every Wednesday throughout Lent and then daily during Holy Week.

### PRIVATE PRAYER

CHURCH WILL BE  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE  
PRAYER BETWEEN  
11AM AND 12NOON  
EACH SUNDAY IN  
MARCH.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

We need to remind ourselves to make choices to preserve our environment and its resources by re-using, recycling and reducing waste which all contribute to making our world a better place and to help us show our gratitude for God's amazing creation.

Following the AGM last month, thank you to all our retiring deacons for your service on the diaconate and a welcome back to Beryl Houghton and Simon Teinert. I hope, once again, that all our deacons and those who hold positions of office will have the support of the whole church fellowship as we move forward into another, albeit it still remotely, church year.

As the vaccine continues to be rolled out to members of our congregation, and we can now begin to hope again that we will soon be free to enjoy a gradual return to normal, please continue to look after yourselves and each other and make the effort to stay in touch. We miss you and look forward to seeing you again as soon as we can. With all good wishes - Liz

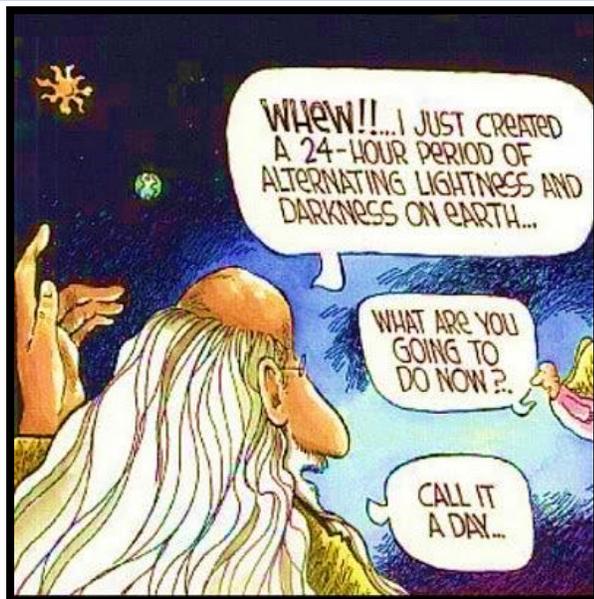
### Working in God's name to help others

Mary Jones is currently collecting items to donate to various charities. Please see the attached article for further information and ways in which you can help. Thanks to Mary for organising this and hopefully we can continue to support these and other charities throughout the year.

It's not too late to sponsor Gill Fletcher and Sharron Pollitt who have pledged to walk 10,000 steps a day for 40 days during Lent to raise money for CAFOD's work around the world and to help end water poverty.

Donations can be made using the link:  
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/Gillian-Fletcher2>

Many thanks for your support and encouragement. #WalkForWater



This year Palm Sunday falls on 28th March. It marks the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, which is the week before Easter and focuses on the final days of Jesus' life. Palm Sunday traditionally celebrates the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem just days before his death. Jesus rode into the city on a donkey as people cheered him on. They waved palm branches and laid them down in his path as a mark of respect and honour.

Many western churches have observed palm blessings and distribution to the congregation on Palm Sunday since the middle ages. Early references to Palm Sunday observations date back to the 9th century. Many modern Christian churches now celebrate Palm Sunday as part of Holy Week.

The name Palm Sunday comes from the palm branches that people laid down in Jesus' path as he rode into Jerusalem. Palm branches are seen as a symbol of joy and victory, and in Biblical times were often thrown before the feet of a conquering hero in homage.

The biblical accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem are found in all four of the gospel books, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. While each book's account is similar, recounting the singular event, there is a subtlety between each book's description.



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