

At the Chapel:

Sunday Eucharist at 10am in February

February 4th
February 11th
February 18th
February 25th

Revd Jackie Fox
Revd Martin Bull
Revd Ken Crossley
Revd Jackie Fox & Revd
Caitlin (we hope)

February 14th Ash Wednesday 10am Eucharist & Ashing

&

Silence-Reflection-Compline:

Wednesday 14th 8pm-9pm an hour of silent prayer and reflection in the chapel. At 9pm we will conclude with Compline.

The Magdalen Fellowship

Will meet on 5th February - for Eucharist & Prayer for Healing at 10am succeeding Mondays at 10, for Prayer and reflection and fellowship, especially for the healing of the world and it's people.

Sunday Readings as set in the lectionary

February 4th	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14
February 11th	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9
February 18th	1 Peter 3.18-25	Mark 1.9-15
February 25th	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8. 31-38

Advance Dates

April 18th: 2pm Chapel Annual Meeting, chaired by The Dean

To contact us: **Revd Jackie Fox** **603698**
We have a website:
<http://stmarymagdalenripon.org>



Chapel of St Mary Magdalen Newsletter February 2018

February brings in Lent. At times both the month and the season of Lent, seem to be presented as a dull, grim time, it is still dark and often cold. Actually this is a growing time, deep underground or shrouded in leaves, life is returning.

The temptations of Jesus are well known, each year we hear them again, almost they seem to be unreal, yet Jesus was living in a world with people who reacted exactly as they do today. There were idealists looking for the right way to live, wanting everyone to get it right, and demonstrating in their cause. There were the politically minded who wanted to legislate that everyone

should do the right thing, and prosecute those who went another way. Then of course the rest, like most of us, not quite understanding all the issues, but having loud voices and often strong opinions the people who Jesus met the most and made great attempts to get through to. In his world how should Jesus demonstrate the presence of God? He could have joined any of those groups, identified with power, wealth or idealism, but he rejected the labels, he did not let anyone pigeon hole him. He sought always, with honesty, integrity and divine love to show people God the Father.

For us this Lent, we have to decide how we are going to live that will show to those around us the love of God. For us the temptations are still there, for us, we can hitch ourselves to the richest and most powerful and believe that will keep us safe and secure. We may throw ourselves into 'doing many things' somehow imagining that not thinking but doing will be our way to salvation. We may become so legalistic that we cease to listen to what people are really saying. None of these is the answer, though yes we need to use the power we have, the resources that are entrusted to us, we need to do good, not evil, but above all else, we must keep in touch with the living Lord, seeking always to live his way and with him, with honesty, integrity and divine love for the world around us.

We need to read the Scriptures, to seek to understand them afresh, and we need to pray. We offer opportunities for you to join these in Lent. One of the more modern hymns says 'Is it I Lord, I have heard you calling in the night..I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart'. Let us listen that we hear the call, and then yes go, do what he calls you to, but always we hold God's people in our hearts.

How do we listen? In this growing time for faith, there are well practised roots: Lent Books, Lent groups, attending midweek worship, taking on a new task and/or setting aside time for a new energetic approach to prayer.

This year there are a number of ways in which we can use some time and some of these methods to deepen our understanding of our faith, to reform our pattern of prayer, to engage with other people, both those of faith and those who would say they had none.

Ideas which we could discuss: joining in a Lent Group or setting one up..around the Cathedral Rowan Williams book 'Meeting Mark' is a focus (we might want to use this too).

On Ash Wednesday (14th) we have a Eucharist with Ashing at 10am, in the evening is our Silent Prayer & Compline. If you have other ideas, or books that you are willing to lend out as Lenten reading, do bring them to the chapel - we cannot necessarily guarantee that they will be used, or returned, but they may help someone.

The Diocese of Leeds (our Diocese) has asked that we use this prayer each day:

Lord God, through Lent open our eyes to see all the right and wrong that we have done. Help us in our loving of one another, to make good decisions, to be strong and not give up. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to both learn and live the Gospel with generosity and joy, imagination and courage for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus. Amen.