

LENT IN A BAG - 2021

Welcome to Lent in a bag
An opportunity to journey through Lent
as an individual, family or support bubble.
Within the bag you will find symbols of the
Lenten Journey



This is *your* journey.

However you decide to use the items is up to you.
This booklet suggests some ways that maybe helpful.
If you are doing this as a family, most of the suggested
Bible Readings will be found also in a children's Bible.

MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED LENT
AND REMEMBER THAT GOD LOVES YOU - ALWAYS

Prayer for the beginning of Lent

**Creator of my Life, renew me:
bring me to new life in you.**

Touch me and make me feel whole again.

**Help me to see your love
in the passion, death and resurrection of your son.**

**Help me to observe Lent
in a way that allows me to celebrate that love.**

**Prepare me for these weeks of Lent
as I feel both deep sorrow for my sins
and your undying love for me.**

Amen

Lent 1 - week beginning 21st February

Into the Wilderness - *sand*

Just between his baptism and the beginning of his adult ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, 'to be tested'.

Read the story of Jesus wandering in the desert - **Luke Chapter 4 verses 1-11.**

Open the little bag of sand and touch it

I wonder...

Have you ever felt that you have been tested?

When have you walked on hard, barren or stoney ground?

What have you learned there?

What might you learn there?

Prayer:

Holy God, help us when we walk through the difficult places in our lives. Help us to know that the closer we walk to you, the closer you will be to us. Amen



Lent 2 - week beginning 28th February

Woman at the well - *blue cloth*

The Samaritan woman gives Jesus a drink of water. They speak together for a long time. He tells her about living water - to revive the spirit and bring hope. She believes and others believe because of her.

Read the story of the woman at the well - **John Chapter 4 verses 1-30**

Hold the blue cloth - the colour of the life giving water

I wonder...

Who helped/ helps you to believe?

Who do you know needs life giving water - physical or spiritual?

Can you support a charity that works to provide clean water for all? (eg Water Aid)

Can you get in touch with someone who needs to know they matter?

Prayer:

O God, may we thirst for your waters of justice and learn to deny no-one the water of life.

Amen



Lent 3 - week beginning 7th March

Transforming Stony Places - Stone

While in the wilderness, Jesus was invited to transform stone into bread. Though he resisted temptation there and then, he became justly renowned for feeding people who were hungry for food, or for love, or for a word of encouragement, or for simple acceptance.

Read the story of Zacchaeus - **Luke Chapter 19 verses 1-10**

Hold the stone

I wonder...

Might there be a stony place in you that needs transforming?
Jesus transforms us and helps us make better choices.
is there a place in your life where you could make better choices?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to make better choices in my life. I ask that you will feed me and transform me. Amen



Lent 4 - week beginning 14th March MOTHERING SUNDAY



Mothering Love - Chocolate heart

This week the church remembers the mothering love of God. In the middle of Lent we give thanks for all who show us this mothering love - a strong love, a challenging love, an encouraging love, a healing love.

Reflect on these Bible verses.

Proverbs Chapter 19 verse 25

Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

Isaiah Chapter 66 verse 13

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Deuteronomy Chapter 32 verses 11–12

As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young; as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions, the Lord alone guided him; no foreign god was with him.

John Chapter 19 verse 26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

I wonder...

Take time to reflect and give thanks for those who have cared for you physically and spiritually? Think of those who you look after.

Prayer:

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Lent 5 - week beginning 21st March

Baptism Covenant - shell

Historically the season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Jesus begins his ministry after his baptism.

Read the story of Jesus Baptism - **Mark Chapter 1 verses 4-11**

Hold the shell.

The shell is a symbol of Baptism - often a shell is used to pour the water over the person to be baptised. The shell is also a symbol of pilgrimage.

I wonder...

Do you remember your baptism?

What have others told you about your baptism?

What does being baptised mean to you?

What difference does your baptism make in your life day to day?

Where are you on your pilgrimage of faith (just starting out, at a crossroads, walking alone or with others.....)?

Prayer:

Creator God, you are the source of all life and motivation. May we journey in faith and love, rejoicing and eager to serve you.

Grant us a glimpse of your glory as we seek to follow you - the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

Palm Sunday - week beginning 28th March

Journeying - human figure

Although Jesus was God, he was also fully human, experiencing all the emotions, joys and sadness that we do. As you move through Holy Week remember that God knows you, sees you and loves you.

Read **Philippians Chapter 2 verses 5-11**

Hold the human figure and reflect on the hymn “At the name of Jesus.” (You may want to write the hymn on the figure).

2 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

4 In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

I wonder...

What does it mean for you to bow your knee to Jesus today?

Prayer:

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedication to serve, to you and to our neighbours, whenever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet. Amen

Maundy Thursday - 1st of April

Journeying - footprints

Read the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet - **John Chapter 13 verses 1-17**



If you are journeying with other people - wash their feet and talk about this story as you do.

Or reflect on the image below - how does it make you feel?

Perhaps write down some words to describe this feeling?

Or write a prayer?



Good Friday - 2nd April

It is finished - wooden cross

‘Then Jesus crying out with a loud voice, said ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit’.

Read the story of the crucifixion - **Luke Chapter 23 verse 32-49**

**Take the little wooden cross and trace your fingers over it.
Hold it in your hand and feel its shape.**

I wonder...

How can the cross remind us to trust in the way of love and know that we are not forgotten?

How can we dare ourselves to follow the way of love - the whole way?

Prayer:

In the silence may we hear your cry of abandonment; in the shattering of your soul may our broken be healed. Amen.

(Thom Shuman)

May this be a good Friday for you.



Easter Day - 4th April

Being Light - candle

Lent begins in the dimness of late winter and ends with the burst of bright spring.

Jesus is according to John's gospel "Light of the world" **John Chapter 8 verse 12**, and that Light directing his attention to his disciples and through them to us, insists: "You are the light of the world don't be hiding under some bushel basket" **Matthew Chapter 5 verses 14-16**.

Light the Candle

I wonder...

Where do you shine?

How do you keep your light shining?

Prayer:

Lord God, you who breathed the spirit of life within me.

Draw out of me the light and life you created.

Help me to find my way back to you.

Help me to use my life to reflect your glory and to serve others as you son Jesus did. Amen.







