

NEWS FROM THE PEWS – March 2022

I wonder if it would surprise you to know that religion often pops up in cryptic cross word clues?

For example, the word “books” will often refer to The Old Testament or New Testament and sometimes a book of the Bible eg. Genesis - will actually mean a “pop group”.

Meanwhile, crossword compilers would be lost if the season of Lent could not also refer to “lending”, as an ending to a word, as in siLENT or as a past participle of lend!

From this you are probably not surprised to know that my husband and I are closet cryptic crossword fanatics. We spend the first hour of most days pouring over yesterday’s crossword in the i and trying to figure out some mind bending and often impossibly complicated clues. A completed crossword, reassures us that our aging brains haven’t entirely worn out yet!

However, March this year is the season of Lent, and is often seen as a time of penitence and even hardship by many Christians. Personally, having grown up in church where Lent was hardly mentioned beyond Shrove Tuesday and Good Friday, Lent isn’t, I have to admit, my favourite season. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with anticipation as it always meant pancakes for tea, and Good Friday, beyond a morning service, meant Hot Cross Buns and a youth club ramble on Dartmoor. I’m not sure that the idea of penitence, abstinence or giving up something really enjoyed ever came into it!

Fast forward to 2022, I still have this feeling that Lent is something to be endured rather than celebrated!

Yet, isn’t it right that we should be reminded each year that the joy of Easter should be acknowledged as coming after a period of intense suffering on the part of Jesus? Just as Christmas is preceded by Advent, a time of preparation and reflection, so Easter is preceded by Lent, often used as a time of preparation and reflection by Christians as they anticipate what is one of the most important Christian Festivals.

So whether you decide to “give up” smoking, drinking or listening to The Archers for Lent this year, why not also pop into St. Michael’s and light a candle for someone you love, enjoy a bacon butty on a Friday morning, come along to an Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd, or join a Lent Course?

In the meantime - good luck to all you crossword addicts-maybe we should consider giving them up for Lent!

Ann Goddard - Reader at St. Michael’s

What’s on this month?

In addition to the usual Sunday services, there is Toddler Church each Tuesday morning and a midweek Communion every Thursday.

Fridays, Mikey's 8.30 -11.00 am (last orders 10.30.)

March 1st Pancake Party 4.30

2nd Ash Wednesday Service 7.00 pm

5th Coffee Morning 9.30-11.30 am

10th Lent Course 7.00 pm (and each subsequent Thursday evening)