

Yesterday a different darkness came: 100,000 deaths from Covid in the UK so far. As a response to this grim milestone, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a letter encouraging all to spend time in prayer for the life of our nation and those suffering the effects of Covid. This also is an act of lighting a candle of faith in the midst of a dark situation.

This Sunday is Candlemas, which commemorates the point in Jesus' early life when he is brought to the temple and the prophet Simeon speaks of Jesus being 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles'. Jesus as the Light of the World is a common theme around Christmas, but is rarely explained. What does it mean for Jesus to be the Light of the World? Light brings into the open things hidden, things that perhaps some people want hidden, some things we might want hidden.

Two things coming up in the next few weeks help us to earth what Jesus as the Light of the World might mean for us.

Firstly, responding to the Archbishops' request that we pray in response to the 100,000 deaths' milestone, I am holding a time of prayer on the morning of Saturday 6 February, from 9 to 11 am. During this, there will be times of listening to the Bible, of listening to spiritual music and of praying for specific topics. All are welcome to join at any point from 9am onwards.

To join online, click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84396618013> Meeting ID: 843 9661 8013

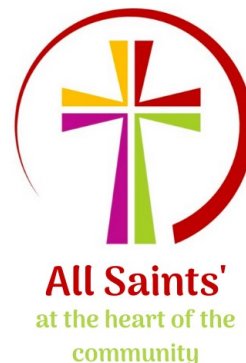
To join by phone, call 0203 481 5237 Meeting ID: 843 9661 8013

Secondly, there will be Lent study groups meeting from the week beginning 18 February. These will be held on Zoom, with one group session available via phones rather than computers for those without internet access. The material for this year's Lent course will be the Church of England's recent work *Living in Love and Faith*, which explores issues of identity, sexuality and gender.

Both the prayer meeting on the 6th and the Lent course from the 22nd invite us to dig deeper into what Christ as the Light of the World means for us personally and as a church.

Blessings,

Andy



**SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**EPIPHANY 4**

**Septuagesima**

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
(Candlemas)**

Readings for 31<sup>st</sup> January

Hebrews 2: 14 - end and Luke 2: 22 - 40

Our dear friend **John Oliver** died last Saturday (24 Jan 2021).

Please keep Anne and their 3 daughters

Ruth, Kathryn and Alison - and their families in your prayers.

He died peacefully in St Gemma's.

The funeral will be in All Saints', but because of current restrictions,  
it will be for relatives only.

#### **LETTER FROM THE RECTOR**

Saturday 30/01/21

Dear all

I'm writing this letter on Wednesday 27 January, which is International Holocaust Memorial Day. This evening at 8pm I will light a candle to remember all those killed by prejudice and hatred, not just in World War II, but in recent decades too. I light a candle as an act of defiance against the dark, whether that be the horror of war, the insidious evil of prejudice or the creeping despair of isolation. Lighting that candle in the darkness reminds me of the hope that a new dawn can bring. (continued on back page)

## **Supporting local families in need during Covid**

*Food bank collection,  
supermarket vouchers  
and laptops/ipads/tablets for school*

A big thank you to everyone in the village who gave Christmas presents and food vouchers for the Salvation Army in December for our Toy Service. As you will know, many people are suffering great hardship at the moment due to Covid-19. We are beginning to collect food to distribute to local food banks, mainly South and East Leeds food bank and St. Aidans' Church food bag scheme for the homeless at Harehills (depending on their need). If you can spare some extra food please drop it off at the collection point below. Currently they have plenty of pasta and rice but are short of tinned food.

Barwick School is also supporting families with supermarket vouchers and have asked if we might be able to help. We will also be collecting vouchers of £20 each for local families to spend on essentials such as food and clothing. If you can, please also drop-off vouchers and we will pass them on to school.

Finally I have had a request from school for laptops/ipads/tablets to help families with their home schooling. Many families are struggling with multiple siblings at home all trying to use the same devices. Even after government help there is a shortfall. If you have a spare device or are happy to help purchase one please contact Mr Roycroft to make arrangements. Again, a big thank you for the village effort and reaching out to those around us who are in need.

## **Food bank and supermarket voucher donations**

Carole will have a plastic box at the end of her drive for food donations. Please post vouchers through the door  
34 Main Street, Barwick, Leeds LS15 4JQ.

## **School laptops/ipads/tablets**

Contact Darryl Roycroft (Deputy Headteacher),  
darryl.roycroft@stf.barwick-in-elmet.leeds.sch.uk

## **Messy Church**

*Available online from Wednesday 3rd February*

Becki, Sarah, Leslye, Bob and Jess will be exploring the parable of the Prodigal son, through making, story telling and music. If you would like a goody bag please email Sarah at sarahjdrury14@hotmail.com. If you are at home and would like to use your own materials here is the basic list of crafts and materials to collect:

1. Paper chain hearts; fixed with staples, tape or glue. Made with strips of coloured paper.
2. Friendship Bracelet; Pasta, beads or breakfast cereal (Cheerio's) that can be threaded
3. Pig biscuits; Rich tea biscuit decorated with fondant icing and chocolate chips.
4. Pig Mask; Paper plates (or round cut out card). Decorate/draw pig face!
5. Coin rubbing using a wax crayon.

Find the uploaded video (recorded live) on The Elmete Trinity YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKIfaJisVxxttTBJJg>

## **Revd Bob Bailey**

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