



St.Peter's Parkstone

Focused on God : Speaking of Jesus : Caring about people



Ash Wednesday is on 6 March and so begins Lent.

*There will be celebrations of the Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes at 10.45am and 7.30pm.*

“Daring to See God Now”

... is the title of our Lent course this year. Once again we shall be using material from the most recent ‘York’ course and this year it’s been compiled by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt. Revd Nick Baines.

Mark’s Gospel begins with Jesus ‘proclaiming the Good news of God’. But, what is this ‘good news’, and who is it for? Taking Mark 1.14-15 as a starting point, this course raises important questions about change, repentance, and how we can become, in ourselves living evidence of the good news. Examples are taken from the rest of Mark’s Gospel as well as contemporary and historic Christians.

Here is something that a reviewer wrote: “This is a course that helps people to articulate their fears in a way that might deepen their faith and their attitudes to the world around them. It is designed to help people dare to see God in their own lives and those around them. There are good questions to be asked – Do you feel loved by God? Does Jesus always deliver what you expect? And more.”

St.Peter’s will shortly be experiencing some big changes in its Clergy team and this is going to be a bit of an upheaval for everyone. Among other things, we hope that this course will help us to reflect a bit on all that as a way of preparing ourselves for the challenges and the opportunities that are coming our way.

The course will operate in small groups so have a look at the days and times and pick the one that you think will work best for you. If you find that one week you can’t make your usual group, go to one of the others (space permitting, do let the group leader know!)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

(Mark 1:14-15)

Lent Study Groups

The evening groups will meet from 7.30 to 9.00pm

Tuesday evenings

March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9
At The Ox (at Ashley Cross)
led by the Revd Jonny Scott.

Wednesday evenings

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
At the Rectory, 19 Springfield Rd,
led by the Revd Michael Camp.

Thursday evenings

March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11
At Jan Miller's house, 7 Harbour View Rd,
led by members of the group.

Friday afternoons

2.00pm to 3.30pm
March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12
At Edna Dickinson's house, 25 Alton Rd,
led by the Revd Sally Bedborough.

Hopefully there will be a time here to suit everyone. Please be sure to sign up on the list to indicate which group you'll be joining.

We'll need to make a small charge of £5 to cover the course materials.

There will be an introduction to the course at the evening Eucharist on Ash Wednesday and the course booklets will also be available on that evening.

Praying, working and eating together

Saturdays March 23 and April 13.

A few years ago our Lent course was built around prayer and work along the lines of a Benedictine community. Many people found that a really profound thing to share in and this year, too, we'll be having a couple of 'prayer and work' sessions. On each occasion we'll gather in Church at 10am for some prayer and then we'll get down to work. There's lots of spring cleaning to do; things to mend and so on and so on. We'll do a couple of hours' work together pausing for prayer in the middle and concluding with prayer at the end. There will be tasks suitable for everyone and all abilities.

This time we're including gardening work in the Churchyard on 23 March! So, you can choose your work, inside or out.

At midday on those days there will be a frugal Lent lunch too; some soup and a roll. You'll be asked to pay £2.50 and the proceeds will go to one of our local charities

We hope that everyone will be able to come for the work and the prayer and the lunch and to enjoy one another's fellowship but if you can only do the work and prayer that's fine and if you only want to come for the lunch, that's fine too. Do what you can!

Just one thing, we do need people to sign up for the lunch so we know how many to cater for so please sign up on the list if you want lunch on either day.

10.00am	Gather for prayer
10.15am	Working together
11.45am	Closing prayer
12noon	Frugal Lent lunch, soup and a roll for £2.50pm

On 23 March, churchyard gardening work will continue after lunch

Lent is a time for penitence and, as always the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available. Please speak to Fr. Michael if you'd like to make a confession and deepen your sense of devotion to God.