



14th February
2021

HEXHAM ABBEY PEWSHEET
VOLUNTEERS ~ CONGREGATION ~ STAFF



As we head into Lent, here is a reminder of ways in which you can participate whilst the Abbey doors are closed. Ash Wednesday is this week, the 17th, and Zoom Worship that day will specially mark this occasion and the start of Lent.

WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES LENTEN COURSE

This Lent, David will be running a Lenten series via Zoom on the theme of **Wilderness Encounters**. Each session will involve worship, personal reflection, bible study and group discussions and hopefully good friendship and fellowship.

In this series, after setting the context, we will explore four key encounters from the Bible – Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist and Jesus.

PLEASE REGISTER TO TAKE PART

The series begins on Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm and continues each week until Tuesday 23rd March. Everyone is welcome but you will need to register.

Please register to take part by clicking the following link (or by pasting it into your web browser) <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-GtrDsuGdTTJdjC0gno0eR53K9arRZG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The link in that email will enable you to join each session.

#LIVELENT

The link to receive daily reflections via **email** from the Church of England during Lent is now live on their website, you can visit the website here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent> where there are also links to download the **free app**.

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, there will be six reflections for each week. Each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

You can also ask your **smart speaker** to play the Church of England's daily reflection! Start by saying either:

"Alexa, open the Church of England" or "Hey Google, talk to the Church of England"

You can then ask for:

"Play today's LiveLent reflection" or

"Play the Church of England's reflection for day 'x'"

For the less tech savvy, there is the traditional reflections **booklet** also available to order from [Church House Publications](https://www.churchhousepublications.com) for £1.99.



UPDATES FROM THE ABBEY COMMUNITY...

Another week of snow and freezing temperatures! Anything that you do or snap during your week, please carry on sending it over; it helps those feeling isolated to feel less so and helps us all stay together as a community. Hopefully it won't be much longer until we are all back together again soon but in the meantime here are a few updates from this week.

Hélène Dolder made this smiley little frosted cupcake near the bowling green whilst on her travels.



Thanks to Debs Buchan for these pictures of the snowfall on the Tyne and the Abbey Priory Buildings in the snow!



Chris Britton thought this picture might help us look to the Spring which seems just around the corner. This picture was snapped last year from the Britton household.



Janet Wormold took this photo of Wydon Water, which she is lucky enough to only live a couple of minutes away from!



A POEM FROM SHELAGH CARTER

Hope Springs Eternal

Snow white flakes falling softly as we sleep
cover barren landscapes with magical stillness;
ugly places made beautiful.

An early riser stirs and plodges joyfully to work,
his prints, the first in this virgin winter wonderland.

A few hours later, children gleefully throw snowballs
on their way to school. The promise of sledging
gives their day an urgency of impatience.

Laughter, shouts of mirth, ring in the air like tocsins of pealing bells.

But all too soon, snow turns to slush and the world becomes
grey again, with Winter's lowering clouds and freezing rain
forcing everyone indoors to stay warm by crackling fires.

Now and then, the sun breaks forth and people venture out
wrapped up warmly against chill, biting winds.

And there, sheltered in hedgerows and gardens,
snowdrops and winter aconites emerge
from ice cold earth,

shaking the frost from their petals and
warming themselves in the weak winter sun.

Hearts are gladdened for Spring is at last on its way,
the promise of new life in all its forms.

Daffodils, their blowsy yellow heads, nodding in joyful abandon,
fledgling birds, with raucous cries, demanding food from harried parents,
blossom bursting forth in unexpected places.

Yes, Winter is a joyful season after Autumn's gloomy mists.

The Christ child born in depths of Winter promising
new life, mirroring the shoots of Spring
and planting new hope in the hearts of men.

CREATIVE AGE ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE AGED 50+

I recently found this in the Queen's Hall email newsletter and felt it was worth sharing after seeing all the creative types we have within our congregation!

"QHA is delighted to announce that we have received funding from the Kellett Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to extend our Creative Age project for another year (until summer 2021).

Usually, we would be meeting in groups at Queen's Hall or in village halls, but during the Covid-19 pandemic we're developing new projects that people can take part in at home. Alongside our ongoing [Contribute to a Quilt project](#), several new activities are in the pipeline including **Dress A Doll, Dog or Cat** - a project to create stuffed toys to send to families in need at Christmas; a **creative writing project** exploring memories of local villages to be made into illustrated booklets; and **From My Window** - responses to a view from a window in participants' homes in any medium - e.g. drawing, knitting, writing, painting, textiles or photography. The work will form part of a celebratory exhibition at Queen's Hall which will celebrate and showcase creative work made by the community during the Covid-19 lockdown.

All activities are free for anyone over 50 to take part in and we're particularly keen to reach people who may be isolated due to Covid-19 shielding. For more information please email susan.priestley@queenshall.co.uk"

CHICKS AND BUNNIES!

There has been a wonderful response to last week's call for knitters, for which we are hugely grateful. It shows what a generous community we have, with so many people willing to give their time and talents. It is also a great way for people to remain connected whilst we are unable to meet in person.

Please keep hold of your chicks and bunnies until we are able to collect them safely, but it would be great if we had an idea of total numbers. Please send an email of how many chicks you have made (or plan on making), with a photo if possible.

We are awaiting government guidance as to what might be allowed to go ahead, so please watch this space for further details.

Thanks to June Olliver for this photo of her knitted bunny!



For your prayers

We pray for those who are unwell or who have asked for our prayers: Mary Miller, Ron Lane

We pray for all those who have died and all those who mourn: Carol Moy, Joyce Glenwright, Gladys Greenwell, Joyce Oliver, Audrey Carey and Les O'Neil

ABBEY NEWS!

With the snow delaying works on the roof this week, we have a short update on the progress of the Abbey from Lou this week!

Hello all! Things are still underway here at the Abbey, the lovely snow has slowed things down a bit, but spirits are still high, and they have even said that I can go up to the top and have a look soon!! (Insert excited dance here). The Abbey is looking beautiful all covered up with snow, I would love to receive any photographs you have taken of the Abbey this week to put on the Abbey's Instagram page and blog. Please send them to louise.weaver@hexhamabbey.org.uk.



AN OPEN LETTER FROM WILFRID

A bit of light humour, courtesy of the lovely Margi McAllister:

To the Rector, Clergy, Churchwardens and common laity of Hexham Abbey, from your Founder, Bishop, and Superior, Wilfrid

Pleased as I am to know that you are restoring my crypt, I am shocked to learn that you are spending the immense sum of £24,500! What are you thinking of?

At such a price, are you paying for stone? The Roman fort at Corstopitum was good enough for me, and there's plenty of it left. There is decent dressed stone all over the County if you look for it. Haven't you just pulled down the old Swimming Pool? Are you paying for mortar? My workmen made it out of gravel and anything they could dig out of a ditch, and it lasted over 1300 years. If something had died in the ditch first, all the better. As for paying the labourers, in my day they were so honoured to work on my Abbey they'd do fourteen hour shifts for a sack of turnips and a prayer of absolution. I hear that these days they insist on VAT. WHAT? You pay them in drink?!

What grieves me most is the thought of what glorious things I could have done with that money. I could have rebuilt York Minster so that it outshone Canterbury and Rome. I could have been an Archbishop. (Take that, Welby.) There would have been enough cash left for a state of the art monastery, the ransom for a slave or two, and a set of truly dazzling vestments custom made by Nuns R Us

There is only one thing to do, and it's what I always did. I am going to complain to the Pope. I may be some time

Wilfrid the Livid



Parish Office: 01434 602031 or admin@hexhamabbey.org.uk.

In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact Rev'd David Glover on 07886 289311.

Sunday 14th February 2021 SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.00am	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd Janet Jackson
Preacher	Rev'd Michael Jackson	Readers	Jonathon Hewitt and Richard Thornton
Readings	2 Kings 2.1-12 and Mark 9.2-9	Intercessor	Geoff Glover

Wednesday 17th February 2021 ASH WEDNESDAY

7.00pm	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd David Glover	Reader	Linda Rowell
Readings	Amos 5.14-24	Intercessor	Vivien Drydon

RESOURCES

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February the CofE invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

This link will provide you with the resources to pray every day, not only does it provide you with a daily prayer throughout all of February, it give you themes and related saints. There is also the option to print these prayers in pdf format and also the chance to view the letter from the Archbishops.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Time to Pray is a free app, available from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. It provides everything you need to pray through the day, taking into account day of week and seasons of the church's year. Time to pray is also now a podcast, where you can listen along for 10 minutes or so. Everything you need will be on the app or follow this link for more information: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.