



**Revd. David O'Brien      March 2018**

## **March is the Month of Madness, Mystics and Missionaries, Mothers and Memorials**

**March Madness:** 'White Rabbits!' on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and March hares skipping and frolicking with joy at the prospect of Spring (can somebody let the weather know?).



**March Mystics and Missionaries:** In Wales and in Christian tradition March 1<sup>st</sup> is when St David/Dewi Sant is remembered and credited with others it has to be said with bringing the light of the Gospel. In Ireland and the Irish diaspora around the world when Patrick is celebrated on March 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Mothers:** March 11<sup>th</sup> is Mothering Sunday where society in general gives thanks for mothers. In Christian tradition it was a day for thanking God for Mother Church or the founding church in a community. Oxon like other churches in Shrewsbury once belonged to the parish of St. Chad's. For others it is a day of thanksgiving for those who have been mothers of the faith, Sunday School teachers for example.



**Memorial and Meditation:** March 18<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of Passiontide leading us to focus towards Palm Sunday March 25. The following days are days for us to stop reflect and prepare for Easter, Maundy Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> and Easter Eve 31<sup>st</sup>.



There is plenty during March for Christians to reflect upon, stop, refocus and celebrate during this relatively short period of Lent.

**Psalm 77** is written against the backdrop of suffering and longing prayer. The author then begins to remember God's work in his life.

*'Then I thought, "To this I will appeal: the years of the right of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.'* Psalm 77. 10-12



**March is the month of madness, mystics and missionaries, mothers and memorials.**

May March be the month where God be at the centre of your focus.

Bless you, Revd David.



**Alyson Bradney**

## Churchwardens' News



**Neil Harris**

Another month has gone by and we start to think about Spring, but it looks like we will have to wait a little longer as the Beast from the East makes us shiver.

Although we are in Lent, as Churchwardens we must prepare for the Easter services.

We look forward to seeing Primrose the donkey again for the Palm Sunday service, when we process around the Church and Shelton Gardens. If anyone would like to volunteer to look after Primrose during the service, please let us know. She is very gentle.

We have been nominated again as Churchwardens for the next twelve months and we would like to thank everyone for their support. We would also like to see more people come forward to serve on the PCC which is the body that decides what happens in the Church.

Again, speak to us if you want to know more of what happens in the meetings and want to get involved. It's not quite like the **"Vicar of Dibley"** but we do have some fun, not always serious business.

Love and Best Wishes

*Alyson Bradney* (850429) and *Neil Harris* (357174)

# Steps in Discipleship



During Lent our small groups are studying this wonderful course designed and written by The Venerable Paul Thomas & The Very Revd Adrian Dorber.

The purpose of the course is to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad by considering the five themes of the Diocese of Lichfield shown in the image above starting with the heart.

- discovering the heart of God
- growing disciples
- Reaching new generations
- transforming communities
- practising generosity



**Here is a small snippet from the course:** "It is fascinating that in 2003 during excavations under the nave of Lichfield Cathedral the remains of a stone coffin-chest were discovered. Part of the front end of the chest was still intact with the limestone carving of an angel. It is thought that the chest was made at the close of the eighth century to hold the remains of St Chad. The angel is probably Gabriel with the missing section of the carving probably depicting the Virgin Mary as she received the news that she was to become the mother of the Son of God."

You can read and download this '**Free**' course online by searching for the words in the title. Or, better still, join one of our small groups and enjoy having a good chat about following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad.

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