



Revd David O'Brien

March 2019

**Have you heard the one about the Welshman,
Irishman, Englishman and Scotsman?**

Happy Saint David's Day for the 1st March to all our Welsh viewers. Made even sweeter by the early summer sun the emergence of daffodils and a rugby match!



The Irish will also have cause to celebrate this month as well as Saint Patrick's Day the 17th falls on the Sunday so is transferred to Monday the 18th. This is the day when Guinness is venerated.

Saint George will have to wait until the 23rd April. So, vengeance on the dragon will have to be put on hold for a few weeks more and Saint Andrew has a long wait until the 30th November. Our Scottish brethren will need the gift of patience. Some would say it's because the Scots have a reputation for hanging on to things. Even their saints!



So, what do we make of all these saints and there are many more too? We haven't even mentioned Cuthbert, Aidan or even Alfred the Great who get a mention somewhere. It reminds us that our Christian heritage hasn't just been made up. The backbone of British identity has been built upon strong Christian principles founded on the teaching of Jesus, the 10 Commandments and the wisdom of the Bible.

We are reminded that ordinary people had the courage to share the Good News of Christ

with a pagan culture, sacrificing comfort, home and family to change this nation through the Gospel. Their legacy and our heritage of prayer, faithfulness and vision are what is needed today when so many lack direction or conviction.

We take from them the willingness to risk all for Christ not knowing where he would lead them. It's the same today.

Following Christ means he is the destination and the direction of travel.

Following him is about being transformed on the inside and willing to go where he wants us to go. For some

of us the mission field is where we live. For others it is to move around.

All of it in the end is designed to make us more like Christ:



“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8.29).

God Bless you on your journey.

Rev'd David.



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Alyson Bradney

Churchwardens' News



Neil Harris

March is such a beautiful time of renewal, where blossoms start to burst out and bulbs spring forth their flowers.

Change is a natural occurrence and changes are happening in our church too with David leaving us to enjoy the sea air, Blackpool rock and all that Blackpool has to offer!!

It is a wonderful opportunity for him and an exciting new adventure. Therefore although we are saddened by his leaving we should see it as a natural progression. We too, as a church will have a new beginning, a new adventure.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12TH MAY

Following Neil's article in last month's issue he is appealing for help in this year's campaign.

He would like help in putting the collector's packages together and distributing them to the collectors.

This needs to be completed by the end of April. If you can help please speak to Neil, so he can explain what is involved.

We have received a 'Thank You' card from the Ford and District Branch of The Royal British Legion for our donation which formed part of the District Total of **£19,261.34**,

Just to remind you to return the questionnaires you have received over the last few weeks as soon as possible, as we need to compile information for our Church Profile to be used for advertising for a new vicar. Please pray for our PCC as they meet to discuss the business of appointing a new vicar.

Love and Best Wishes From:

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

News from Helen Gallagher Reader



LENT CHALLENGE: God's people may spend a great deal of time on their knees telling God what they want from Him, but few take time to read their Bibles so they can learn what He wants from them.

Traditionally a period of '**giving something up**', let's do just that during Lent 2019 and **give up** some time to read our Bibles.

Here is a simple reading plan taking us from Ash Wednesday (6th March) to Easter Sunday (21st April) with days off. Use any version of the Bible you have or ask in church to borrow one. Go on, give it a go!

On Sunday 17th and Sunday 31st March the 6pm Evening Reflection time will be given over to reading relevant Bible passages and discussing them.

Everyone welcome. Helen.

Day 1: Matt 3	Day 13: Matt 25-26	Day 25: Luke 10-12	Day 37: John 7-8
Day 2: Matt 4-6	Day 14: Matt 27-28	Day 26: Take a Break	Day 38: John 9-10
Day 3: Matt 7-9	Day 15: Mark 1-3	Day 27: Luke 13-14	Day 39: John 11-12
Day 4: Matt 10-12	Day 16: Mark 4-6	Day 28: Luke 15-16	Day 40: Take a Break
Day 5: Take a Break	Day 17: Mark 7-9	Day 29: Luke 17-18	Day 41: John 13-14
Day 6: Matt 13-14	Day 18: Mark 10-12	Day 30: Luke 19-20	Day 42: John 15-16
Day 7: Matt 15-16	Day 19: Take a Break	Day 31: Luke 21-22	Day 43: John 17-18
Day 8: Matt 17-18	Day 20: Mark 13-14	Day 32: Luke 23-24	Day 44: John 19-20
Day 9: Matt 19-20	Day 21: Mark 15-16	Day 33: Take a Break	Day 45: John 21
Day 10: Matt 21-22	Day 22: Luke 1-3	Day 34: John 1-2	Day 46: 1 Corinthians 15
Day 11: Matt 23-24	Day 23: Luke 4-6	Day 35: John 3-4	Day 47: It's Easter!
Day 12: Take a Break	Day 24: Luke 7-9	Day 36: John 5-6	