

Now Esther was admired by all who saw her ... the King loved Esther more than all the other women

- **Esther 2: 15, 17** -

Prayer Activity:

Open your diary or look at your calendar and reflect on the events and circumstances of the past week. Call to mind the decisions you had to make. Were any of them difficult? How did you decide? Did you try anything new or bold? Did you stick to what you knew and play safe? Where was God in these times?

Sunday February 19th 2017

Morning Worship with Communion Led by Revd Doug Stevens

Notices

Call to Worship:

Lord God, you took the biggest risk you could possibly take:
you came to earth to live and die for us.

We come before you in praise and worship this morning,
praying that we too will be willing to take risks in your service,
and bring glory to your name.

Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we gather together, very far from perfect;
and we know it.

But you are a patient God who waits
for us to grow into your completeness,
your perfection.

Join us together this morning,
and make us all one in your love.

Amen.

Hymn 11: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Prayer

Lord, sometimes it is very hard for us to approach you,
to open ourselves up in your presence.

We are frightened of where you might lead us.

We pray that today we will allow you into
the parts of our lives that we keep to ourselves.

Teach us to live without fear.

Lord, we know that we are not perfect;
and we thank you that we don't have to be,
certainly not all in one go.

Thank you that we are a work in progress.

Thank you that as we grow closer to you,
we get nearer to that perfect love
that takes away all our fears.

Sometimes, Lord, we can be very solitary people.

We find it easier to isolate ourselves
from those around us, and from you,

especially from you,
than to be your love in action in our world.
We ask you to forgive us,
but even more than that, to equip us
to go out among the people you will bring to us,
and to share your love with them.

God forgives all our sin when we draw close to him.
Go then and grow in his Spirit
and know your sin is forgiven.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A Time of Sharing

Hymn 341: All for Jesus

Exploring Scripture: Leviticus 19: 1 – 2; 9 - 18
Psalm 116 **StF 828**
Matthew 5: 38 - 48

A Time of reflection

Hymn 706: Longing for light, we wait in darkness

A Time for Others

We pray for people whose lives are ruled by old experiences
who are not able to let go of the grudges they bear;
who remember the hurts and troubles of times gone by.
Lord, in your mercy, give us a vision of your Kingdom.

We pray for people whose lack of fulfilment leads them into trouble:
for people in prison, that they might learn from their experience;
for their families who have to try to carry on as normal;
for folk struggling every day to discover any joy in living.
Lord, in your mercy, restore in us the wonder of living in your creation.

We pray for people facing difficulties in relationships, old and new.
For those feeling unloved and unlovable,
looking for rules as excuses to ease their pain,
that they might experience healing and reconciliation.
Lord, in your mercy, remind us that your love conquers all.

We pray for people who struggle to forgive,
to move on, to work for a new tomorrow,
rather than avenge a spoiled yesterday.
Relieve their pain and anguish.
Lord, in your mercy, let hope sustain us as your living presence in our world.

OUR FATHER.....

The Peace

Offertory

Hymn 611: Brother, sister, let me serve you

Holy Communion (p. 191)

Prayer (p. 197)

Hymn 276: Lift high the Cross

Lord, our greatest desire is to be like you.
Send us out now in your name, to do your good will,
and to love and serve you in everyone we meet.
And may the blessing of God Creator Christ and Comforter
be with us now and always. **Amen**

Notices for the coming week

Sun 19th 6.30 At Southside: Healing Service led by Revd Graham Tooth

Tues 21st 10.30 Pause for Prayer, in Walsingham

Weds 22nd 10.30 Circuit Intercessions Service, in Lindisfarne

7.30 At the Friends Meeting House: Peterborough Theological Society, Speaker Revd Andrew Hawes, Vicar of Edenham and Warden of Edenham regional House: Lost in the Labyrinth – Contemporary Trends in Christian Spirituality

Sat 25th 10.15 – 11.45 Coffee morning, in Walsingham
12.30 – 2.30 Food Bank, in Walsingham

Sun 26th Church Action on Poverty Sunday
10.30 Morning Worship, led by Mr Ian Cornall

Forward Notices

Kairos Ministry to Prisons – “Baking for Jesus”

Kairos is an international and UK ministry to prisoners, which is going to conduct a mission at MHP Stocken (about ten miles up the A1 North of Stamford) from 20th to 24th March. They have a mission team prepared for this mission but are asking for help from local churches to prepare “cookies” to be given to prisoners. This is an important part of the mission work – the cookies are free gifts for prisoners, utilised in establishing a relationship with the mission team.

At the church meeting on January 21st it was agreed the church would participate by asking for members each to bake a batch of cookies, to be ready at church on Sunday March 12th. If you can help with this please speak to or contact Ian Cornall.

In order to meet prison regulations, and to avoid any appearance of favouritism (“my cookie’s bigger than yours”) there are very specific instructions that have to be followed. Ian will let you have a recipe and other instructions if you are able to help with baking the cookies.

HOPE Revolution

Following the success of our 'Carve a Heart' event, in partnership with World Vision last year, HOPE Revolution - Peterborough is excited to announce our second evangelistic youth event (11-18's) in partnership with Kingsgate on Friday 24th March, 7.30-9.30pm, (Doors open 7.15: doors close 10pm), @Kingsgate Community Church. This event, off the back of an existing school's week through Kingsgate, will primarily be a music gig playing host to Guvna B: a multi-award winning, record-breaking rap artist from London. He became the first rapper in UK history to top the Official Christian & Gospel charts, and his most recent No. 1 release 'Secret World' was the UK's highest selling urban Christian album in 2015.

Church Strapline and Logo

We are currently looking for a new strapline (along with icon & logo) for our new church. Could you please pray and think about this, and if you have any idea please email them to Dave Kelly (at the address below), who will collate them.

Next Week's Retiring Collection

The Retiring Collection on Sunday 26th February will be for Church Action on Poverty. This was agreed by the January church meeting. Ian is leading the service that morning and is looking forward to your generous donations.

Evening Services

Will members please note that the evening services on the first Sunday of each month will for at least three months be held at 4.30pm. The service on March 5th will be a communion service with a discussion as to what kind of service you would like in this slot. Please come along and voice your opinion.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 23rd February to 8th March. Fairtrade Peterborough is a voluntary not-for-profit group set up to work towards Fairtrade City status for Peterborough. Join them to sample fairtrade drinks and biscuits over an informal lunchtime networking session. Discover Peterborough's journey to be a Fairtrade City; see how you could help us over the finish line. Fairtrade nuts, chocolate, fruit and more available to buy from our stall. This event takes place on Monday March 6^h, from 12.30 to 1.30pm at the Reception Room, Town Hall.

More info at www.fairtradepeterborough.org.uk

The Late Late Pancake Date

In conjunction with Fairtrade Fortnight, Westgate New Church are hosting a pancake afternoon on Wednesday 1st March from 2 to 5pm. Tea or coffee with a pancake costs £2.50, with additional pancakes (or cakes) at 50p each. All proceeds to the chair fund.

Lent Course 2017

Lesley is offering a Lent Course again this year: Five Wednesday afternoon sessions beginning March 8th, 2pm in Lindisfarne. Please let Lesley know that you will be attending.

Crafty Capers

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, Westgate New Church are hosting craft afternoons, from 2 to 4pm. Bring your own craft project, enjoy a chat and learn from each other. Tea and coffee will be available.

For Starters – Peterborough

Calling all pioneers, entrepreneurs and those who just start up things to connect with and serve those who don't yet come to church. Come to join like minded people, hear stories of what's happening in the Peterborough area, learn about training and support you can receive, and to tell us what would

help you in your situation, so we can plan future events and tailor training just for you. This is to be held at Brookside Methodist Church, Gunthorpe Road, on Saturday 11th March from 10am to 2pm. For tickets, search online for 'For Starters – Peterborough'.

Hope into Action 2017 Conference

This event is being held at the Salvation Army Church, 1203 Bourges Blvd, on 31st March, from 9.30am to 3.30pm with tickets priced at £30. For more details please email Carole on info@hopeintoaction.org.uk