



THE PARISHES OF LEDBURY AND EASTNOR

*Worshipping God,
Following Jesus, Sharing His Love*



SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2024 Sunday Before Lent

8am BCP Communion *in church*

10am Morning Worship

in the church building and streamed live on the website

www.stmichaelsledbury.org

then available later on video

5.30pm Holy Communion

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8am BCP Communion *in church*

10am Parish Communion

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Church office: phone number: 01531 631 531.

Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net

our website is: www.stmichaelsledbury.org

Facebook – The church's facebook page: fb.me/stmichaelsledbury –

Do have a look, like, follow and participate.

X (Twitter) – Do sign-up to S. Michael's twitter account: @LedburyParish

Readings for 11th February 2024:

Sunday before Lent

Old Testament Reading:

2 Kings 2: 1 – 12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water and the water was parted to one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

New Testament Reading:

2 Corinthians 4: 1 – 6

¹Having this ministry [the ministry of the Spirit] by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practise cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of

the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness", has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 9: 2 – 13

²After six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them ³and His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. ¹¹And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" ¹²And He said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him."

COLLECT

Holy God, You know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love Your goodness and Your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, we see Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at His table reflect His life in word and deed, that all the world may know His power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please provide information for our weekly pewsheets by Wednesday each week to allow finalisation and printing to take place on Thursdays. Thank you.

Please email your requests to Annie Lindon annielindon@gmail.com and to (cc) rector@stmichaelsledbury.org.

Please begin your subject line with **Pewsheets**. Thank you

Lent Books. Lent is fast approaching; on the bookstall are a selection of books to take us through Lent. There are also some bargains in the Sale box of previous years Archbishop's Lent studies. Do have a look to find something to suit you."

Coffee Stop. Thanks to Ann Gates, aided by Margaret Chapman for all their work. They have both decided it's time to step down. **Coffee Stop continue on Fridays as planned.** Thanks James and June Smith and Frances and Richard Nightingale for offering to put it on. Sonia Bowen has kindly offered to take the baton and will organise Coffee Stop from now on. Thank you Sonia.

Installation of the new **sound system** has been re-scheduled for **Monday 19 February**. So Please be careful if in the nave or chancel over this period to avoid disturbing the contractors. It may be that parts of the church will have to be closed off to allow the contractors to complete their work.

Our Reader, Michael Llywelyn Jones will be delivering his course **Digging Deeper: Exploring the Bible**. If you would like to join it, or simply to hear more about it before making a commitment please email Michael direct on mikellywelynjones@hotmail.co.uk

Important contact change. Andrew Beech's former email address, beech100@virginmedia.com, is now defunct. If you wish to contact Andrew, please use andrewbeech1@icloud.com

Parking. On Sundays is for Blue Badge holders only. The town car parks are free on Sundays.

Services

Thursday 7am and midday prayers in church.

Friday 10.30am Holy Communion in S^t Katherine's Chapel.

Year of Faith 2024

Bishop Richard calls us in 2024 to **grow together in our faith**. This invitation is offered to everyone. There are events, teaching and study days to join in and opportunities to create your own too either as a school community, church or as part of a small group, or in the quiet of your home. Key events for the Year of Faith: We continue to pray that across communities, villages and towns of our diocese, more lives will be transformed and that more people will come to know Christ. Dates and events are in the 'Dates for your Diary'. There will be a Bishop's Questions and a Bishop's Training event in Ledbury in April and July. More information later.

Lent Lunches Further to the news last week, I am glad to report that there will now be three Lent Lunches:

-) Tuesday 20th February at the Methodist Church
-) Thursday 29th February at the home of Ian and Jan James
-) Friday 8th March in St Katherines Hall

2 until 2 pm, raising money to support the Kindergarten at Mtwara in Tanzania. If you would like to host a lunch please contact Elaine Toyer or Hugh Wakeling (wakelinghugh@gmail.com).

Easter Lilies

The Flower Guild will be decorating the church at Easter with lilies. As in previous years to help meet the cost of flowers we invite you to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one. The cost remains £3 per stem. Forms can be found on the table at the North door or electronically from the church website (weekly pewsheets page). Contact Chris Lynch Flower Guild Coordinator on 01531 670 037 or email Chris.lynch54@btinternet.com for more information.

Future LEAF events. March is a busy time for the LEAF kids' team!

Saturday 9 March (2.30 – 4.30 at LBC) there will be a families' craft and fun afternoon. From **18 March – 2 April** SMAAA will host 'Experience Easter', the interactive trail telling the story of Holy Week.

Saturday 30 March we will run an egg hunt and quiz based on that trail. Volunteers to steward/help with any of these will be needed, as will offerings of cake for 9 March. Please let me know if you can help...and also please support us in prayer, and publicise these events to families who might be interested. Mary Anne Keyes maryannekeyes@leafledbury.com 07962323454

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 13th February 10am February's Parish walk on will be from the Woodshed through Eastnor Park to the obelisk and back. For details contact Anne Tattersall on 01531 632021.

Tuesday 13 February at 6:30pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party St Katherine's. Bring your own drink, frying pans and spatulas. Donations for raffle please.

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday Midday Holy Communion (with ashing) 7pm Holy Communion (with ashing). The midday Holy Communion will be followed by a Soup Lunch

Friday 1 March 2.00pm . World Day of Prayer (Women Led, Global Ecumenical Movement). The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women in Palestine, and the theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love". Our service will be held in Ledbury Baptist Church, The Homend. Do come and join us. Men, women and children are all welcome.

Saturday 2 March 7.30pm Ledbury Choral Society will be singing Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, with professional orchestra and soloists, in St. Michael and All Angels. Tickets £16, available from Ledbury Books and Maps and on the door. Under 18s free.

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 March Hereford Passion Play. Year of Faith event. Hereford Cathedral: [Easter | Hereford Cathedral](#)

Saturday 9 March 10.00 – 12.00 Deanery Synod St Peter's Church, Withington when we will welcome the Archdeacon, Derek Chedzey and Diocesan Mission Enabler, Mark Melliush. This will be an open meeting.

Sunday 10 March Mothering Sunday 10am Morning Worship. **5:30pm** Confirmation with Bishop Richard

We pray for: Our link CMS mission partners, our Leprosy Mission partners & St Michael and All Angels, Mtwara and St John the Baptist Church, Likonde and Father Jackan.

We pray for those who are sick: we have amended the list below, but if you know of anyone who should still be included, please let the office know.

Pam Robinson	Thomas Heffner	Stacey Ross	Jenny Barber Iley
David Hicks	Peter Houghton	Elsbeth Barber Iley	Gillian Hewin
Dean Jackson	Terry Dold	Andrew Hicks	Adam Ross

We remember those who have died and pray for those who mourn their passing:

William Turberfield	Jane Harvey	Denis Watson	Ian Done
Angela Hooper	Kate Greenall	Colin Thorne	Ella Turner
Janet Epps	Frances Holloway	Pam Foskett	Sally Foxon
Diane Lindeck	David Harling	Julia Matthews	